

Bavarian News

Vol 4. Nr. 9

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

May 7, 2008



FEATURES

SEE FLOCKE, NUREMBERG ZOO'S NEWEST ATTRACTION
■ PAGE 19

VILSECK JROTC INSPIRES LEADERSHIP, WINS DRILL COMPETITION
■ PAGE 18

GARMISCH COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO HELP FAMILY IN NEED
■ PAGE 10

ANSBACH ANSBACH LOOKING TO BREAK RECORD WITH LARGEST HUMAN YELLOW RIBBON
■ PAGE 20

SCHWEINFURT TWO SOLDIERS AWARDED SILVER STARS
■ PAGE 24

HOHENFELS CLUB BEYOND TACKLES CZECH SERVICE PROJECT OVER SPRING BREAK
■ PAGE 12

INDEX

■ **Sports:** Vilseck baseball season off to strong start
Page 28

■ **Medical:** Learn to identify, avoid poison ivy this summer
Page 26

■ **What's Happening:** Find out what's going on in your area
Pages 14-15

Health clinics providing limited access for non-Prime, Plus patients

by **MARY MARKOS**
Bavarian News

Effective last week, the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck Health Clinics will provide limited access to individuals outside the TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Plus enrollment status.

The focus will return to the health clinics' primary mission to provide medical care to Soldiers and family members, but TRICARE will assist with affected individuals and help them locate German physicians.

The change, made to accommodate the 172d Infantry "Blackhawk" Brigade Soldiers and family members arriving from Schweinfurt this summer, is really not a change at all.

"We are enforcing something that we (previously) didn't have to enforce," said U.S. Army Health Clinic-Grafenwoehr Commander Lt. Col. Telita Crosland. "We are not coming up with new rules and we're not changing anything, we are just using booking tools that are appropriate for our current situation."

The situation that prompted the enforcement, said Crosland, is the move of an additional 2,000 TRICARE Prime patients into the Grafenwoehr and Vilseck community in the coming months.

"All Soldiers and their family members are TRICARE Prime in Europe," Crosland explained. "That means that the military treatment facilities are their primary care managers; we're the doctors for Soldiers and family members."

When the situation is feasible, retirees are offered
See **CLINICS** Page 27

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

■ *National Guard CSM to urge more overseas training, talks about the reserves' changing role*

by **ADRIANE FOSS**
Editor

By next summer, the U.S. Army National Guard will make up half of all U.S. Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. But it's not a first.

The nation's "citizen-Soldiers" made up 56 percent of U.S. combat forces in Iraq in 2005, explained Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard John D. Gipe during an April 22 visit to the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr.

That was no coincidence, said Gipe. "That was by design because that's when the Army was first transforming and growing brigade combat teams, so we went over there as little bit larger forces to allow them that time to do so."

The Floyd's Knobs, Ind., native and eighth sergeant major of the Army National Guard said the oldest component of the U.S. military is a "whole different

ballgame" from when he joined more than two decades ago.

Traditionally, members of the National Guard



Photo by Pfc. Jerry Wilson

Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Gipe greets a group of National Guard Soldiers during a visit to Grafenwoehr April 22.

conducted military training one weekend a month and one month a year while maintaining their civilian jobs. Also, deployments amounted to rare, but occasional, civil emergencies and natural disasters.

"The focus has changed," said Gipe. "We're no longer a strategic reserve. We're an operational force and plan to be for the foreseeable future."

That transformation poses unique challenges for Guard families not accustomed to sending their Soldiers off to war, and Guard Soldiers who have to reintegrate into their civilian jobs after battlefield tours.

To balance that, Gipe said the Guard increased
See **LOCAL** Page 27

Netzaberg neighbors offering dog training



Dana Marshall says her Weimaraner is an obedient pet.

Story and photo by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

Dogs are said to be a man's best friend, but an unruly dog is often seen as a neighbor's worst nightmare.

Two Netzaberg residents organized dog behavior classes in an effort to help busy dog owners in their neighborhood turn their pooches into obedient four-legged friends.

Diana Swieda, a canine-lover with two dogs of her own, helped organize the class.

"It is a really good dog school," she said. "We talked to the owner about the problem up here and that a lot of people are overwhelmed by their dog and they don't know what to do, or where to go to get help. He said he'd offer a class for them."

Me and my neighbor, we started handing out papers," said Swieda. "They can contact the dog school, go there and try it out first ...and if they feel like it is a good school, they can sign up for it."

Classes are held in Immenreuth. Swieda, a native of Germany, hopes

the classes will help combat the negative perspective many Germans have about Americans and their dogs.

She said the perception is that Americans get dogs, but they never really welcome them into their family.

This is evident, she said, by the number of ads placed in newspapers and around post that advertise dogs because the owners are moving or have decided they don't want the dog anymore.

She said that perception is strengthened by the way some

See **NEIGHBORS** Page 27

German law bans some knives, fines offenders

Story and photo by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

Swiss Army knives and multitools escaped a ban by the German government, but butterfly knives and switchblades can cost those carrying them jail time and up to \$15,800 in fines.

German officials made amendments to the weapons law that reinforces the ban on butterfly knives and further restricts what length and type of knives can be carried in public.

The new restrictions took effect

April 1 and make all one-handed knives illegal, as well as knives with fixed blades that measure more than 12 centimeters (4.7 inches) in length.

One-handed knives are described by Weiden Police Public Affairs Officer Werner Stopfer as, "a knife that you can open with just one movement." Such knives include spring-assisted and automatic knives that open by pressing a button or release.

Stopfer said the new restrictions were a result of a rise in crime German police officers experienced with teens.

"They upgraded the law

because more and more criminal acts happened with youths carrying knives," Stopfer said.

Hunters and fishermen need not worry, however, as exceptions were made for individuals carrying knives in connection with a justified occupation, traditional custom, or sport.

Other items banned by the weapons law include throwing stars, nunchakus, brass knuckles, tasers, and look-alike or toy weapons that are similar in appearance to real guns.



In addition to butterfly knives, blades longer than 12 cm are also banned.

Q&A

What are your *Mother's Day* plans?



John McIntyre
(Schweinfurt)
"We're going to make it a special day, and give her a well-deserved break."

Spc. Jesse Jackson
(Schweinfurt)
"Mother's Day starts with breakfast in bed cooked by me and our son Jeremy, who will be 3 this summer. If the weather's nice, maybe we'll have a picnic, then go to a movie."



Silvia Villagomez
(Schweinfurt)
"For me, it's more important that I have a good relationship with my son 365 days a year rather than having one special day. Every day is special when you have a child."

Lindsey Cole
(Schweinfurt)
"I am going to cook my mom breakfast and try to spoil her. I'll clean the house, too."



Juergen Hoechemer
(Schweinfurt)
"I am taking my wife to Florida for a vacation. She needs to relax and get away for a bit."

Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Hiltond
(Schweinfurt)
"I'm going to take her out to dinner, probably to a biergarten overlooking the water. Her favorite city is Bamberg, so we'll go there."



Jason Koelbl
(Schweinfurt)
"It's her first Mother's Day, so I think I'll take her up to the spa for a day of pampering and relaxation. It may be a little expensive, but it's worth it."

Gabriela Castillo
(Schweinfurt)
"My mother is in Mexico, so I won't get to spend time with her, but I will send her a postcard from Schweinfurt."



New school zones a necessity, garrison eyeing Heelys shoe use

During the recent Grafenwoehr community town hall meeting, several issues briefed by the garrison leadership drew interest and comment by attendants. Further explanation of these issues will appear in this and future columns of the Bavarian News:

New School Zones

At the end of the 2005-2006 school year, Grafenwoehr schools had challenges. The incoming student population combined with the renovations of schools meant we would not be able to accommodate our children without major issues.

We created a temporary middle school, moved sixth-grades out of elementary schools, and brought in portable classrooms to meet the students' need. Not everyone was happy with the decision, but it needed to be done for the good of the *entire* community.

The 2008-2009 school year will show an additional update with the completion of our new middle and elementary schools in Netzaberg. Next year, the garrison will have a total of three elementary schools—one in Vilseck, Grafenwoehr, and Netzaberg.

Taking advantage of this, the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, in conjunction with the garrison leadership, developed new school zones.

Again, not everyone is happy with the new schools zones as it will cause some children to attend new schools. But the intent was to do the best for the entire community and address

lingering issues of school attendance by neighborhoods and built-to-lease areas.

The criterion used is as follows:

- Capacity of the schools.
- Minimize students time on the bus for the *entire* student population
- Minimize bus routes through congested areas.

We chose to do this zone update now rather than wait for the new school year for several reasons. This is a best guess by DoDDS and the garrison. We based this analysis on the number of homes the garrison controls and not on the number of children in each home.

Our intent was to get the information out before registration and then, based on registrations, update school attendance locations if needed. We also wanted to get the information to parents now, so they could assess the impact and be ready for it when the new school year starts.

You can help us provide a better final decision by registering and getting your neighborhood families to register in schools now.

Heelys

Heelys are a brand name children's shoe that has wheels on the bottom of it. Basically unknown two years ago, they are prevalent in malls, schools, and skate parks in the United States and have arrived in our community.

There is a debate among health care professionals concerning the safety of these wheeled shoes. Many feel they are just as dangerous as skate boards and bicycles and require the wearer to don a helmet and pads to avoid injury.

Many stateside facilities have banned their

use. In our community the issue is children who do not respect other people's space and parent supervision.

We are assessing the shoes now. Based on the makeup of the shoe, we will determine where and when you can use these shoes. More will follow as we weigh the safety of not just the children, but other people who may get hit by children in the wheeled shoes.

Asian Pacific American Heritage

May is Asian Pacific Heritage month. The theme this year is *Leadership, Diversity, and Harmony—Gateway to Success*. Tracing their service to the nation from the 442d Regimental combat team in World War II, Asian Pacific Americans continue to serve proudly as they carry on our nation's noble tradition of advancing world freedom. They represent many nations and ethnicities, each with its own culture, heritage and language. I invite all members of the community to celebrate at the Asian American luau May 17 and learn what Asian Pacific Americans have done and are doing for this great nation.

How about the snow in the middle of April? It never ceases to amaze me how the weather changes in this community.

Thank you for your interest in the recent town hall. Your interest and drive makes sure we make the best decision for the entire community and helps make this place to the best place to live and serve in Europe.

*Col. Brian T. Boyle
Commander, U.S. Army
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

Seasoned Soldier's pride in unsung heroes cures the blues



CSM CORNER

CSM Lee Kennedy
Task Force XII &
12th Combat Avn Brigade

I just couldn't sleep last night, darned if I didn't give it a good try, but no luck. So I put my kit back on and headed out of the hooch about 3 a.m.

For some silly reason I was depressed or maybe just feeling sorry for myself. So I went back to the office to do some work – but still, I just couldn't shake that terrible feeling. Not being the sharpest knife in the kitchen, I decided to take a walk around the flight line and check security to see how our Soldiers were doing.

Walking around in the dark in the wee hours of the morning isn't the best cure for the blues, I thought to myself. In the distance I could hear the rumble of our helicopters coming in and out of Taji air like bees coming in and out of a hive.

I thought to myself "God bless those hard working Soldiers, it's tough flying around the clock and working these crazy hours."

Still depressed, I ventured on and walked the line. As I got closer to the maintenance hangars I could hear some good old fashion rock 'n' roll blaring in the distance and see small groups of Soldiers, here and there, busy

working.

It might have been an hour before dawn, but these Soldiers were working their tails off. One group of young Soldiers was washing off an aircraft transmission, getting it ready to ship out for repair, and they were having a ball doing it. I could feel their energy and pride, and it made me feel better.

In the hangar itself, a group of about 11 AH-64 mechanics were working like demons repairing an attack helicopter. Standing in the shadows of the hangar door I watched this team work.

They were amazing; they looked like ants on a sugar cube. One old E-7 was walking the floor talking to his young Soldiers, young NCOs were directing Soldiers to every part of the aircraft. Soldiers were checking each others' work. They all had smiles on their faces

"It might have been an hour before dawn, but these Soldiers were working their tails off. One group of young Soldiers was washing off an aircraft transmission, getting it ready to ship out for repair, and they were having a ball doing it. I could feel their energy and pride."

see if they needed any help or just wanted to talk. I was met by one of the young NCOs who briefed me on exactly what they were doing and how. As I talked with this maintenance team it became apparent that these Soldiers

and they were enjoying what they were doing. It was one of the nicest things I had seen in months. I started to feel even better.

I did my John Wayne walk up to the team to

See CSM page 27

Feedback from the Field

U.S. Soldier responds to advice column

Dear Ms. Vicki,

Your advice (in the April 23 issue of the Bavarian News) in regards to the lady that wrote stating her husband's LES listed four dependents probably meant that he did have dependents she was unaware of was completely uncalled for.

The number of dependents on a Soldier's LES is placed there when the Soldier fills out a tax withholding form. The more dependents you claim, the less tax is withheld from your LES.

Some Soldiers have been known to state more dependents than reality to avoid paying excess tax. At the end of the year, though, he will owe more when he files.

The only information on an LES that may give clues to a previous marriage would be unknown allotments since most child support/alimony payments are directly removed from the paycheck.

Last issue's advice placed more pressure on an already struggling relationship with a deployed family. A simple phone call to a finance office could resolve this issue.

Communication is the key to surviving a military marriage. Spouses need to discuss wills, SGLI, and powers of attorney.

In today's military, everyone goes through a lengthy deployment process and those three areas are always verified. To anyone facing deployment: wills and life insurance can be uncomfortable subjects but it needs to be discussed.

SFC (Name Withheld By Request) Heidelberg

Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

Producer: **MILCOM Advertising Agency**
Roswitha Lehner

Zeilaeckerstr. 35 · 92637 Weiden · Telefax 0961-67050-32

Internet: **www.milcom.de**

Bavarian News is an unofficial biweekly publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial views are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The paper is an offset publication prepared and edited by the U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office. Bavarian News is printed by Werbeagentur und Verlag Roswitha Lehner and distributed every other Wednesday. Circulation is 11,300 copies. Submissions are welcome. Send letters to the editor and commentaries to PAO, Unit 28130, Attn: Bavarian News, APO AE 09114, or e-mail them to usagnews@graf.eur.army.mil. Telephone the Bavarian News at 475-7113 or fax to 475-7935 with story ideas and events.

USAG G Commander
Col. Brian Boyle

USAG G Public Affairs Officer
Kim Gillespie (475-8103)

Bavarian News Editor
Adriane Foss (475-7113)

Assistant Editor
Katie Cowart (475-7775)

Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Correspondent
Mary Markos (475-7113)

Garmisch Correspondent
John Reese (440-3701)

Hohenfels Correspondent
Kirstin Bradley (466-4294)

Bamberg Correspondents
Amy Bugala (469-1600)

Schweinfurt Correspondents
(354-1600)

Kimberly Gearhart
Sandra Wilson
Lindsey Cole

Ansbach Correspondents
(467-1600)

Jim Hughes, CI Chief
Ronald Toland



Megan Howard, 8, daughter of Stephanie and Maj. Jonathan Howard, teases prisoners by dangling keys to their cells in front of them while practicing her role as a scientist in a play that she and her friend Ryan Randle, 9, wrote for their third-grade class at Grafenwoehr Elementary School.

Photo by Paula Guzman

Students send loud and clear message to deployed parents

by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

Lights, camera, action!
Film greats like Steven Spielberg and Ron Howard had to start somewhere. For 19 students at Grafenwoehr Elementary School, their start may come with a homegrown script that evolved into a heartfelt film.
Members of Joy Patz’s third-grade class, wrote, produced, and starred in a movie that sends a clear message: we want our parents home.
Script writer and actress Megan Howard, 8, explained how the message is conveyed to the audience.
“At the end ... almost everybody is on stage and they say together, they can all come home, they can all come home,” she said.
The actors, however, soon realize it was just a dream.
“(The main character) and her friends wake up by (a) dog barking. They realize it was just a dream, a wonderful dream, a wonderful dream they wish could come true,” said Narrator Gillian

Lagow, 9, who said she dreams that dream every day. Lagow’s mother deployed to Iraq last summer and is expected home in November.
For classmate Ryan Randle, 9, who also wrote and starred in the film, the dream is important for Soldiers, like her father, who are deployed.
“I think it was very important... when people see the film they will go, they really care about us and they want us to come home, and I think that is important. It just not nice there, it is someplace you don’t want to be,” said Randle.
The film revolved around an evil scientist and had extras dressed as police officers and robots. It sent a message to students of deployed Soldiers as well as those deployed.
“If their parents are deployed, they’ll understand that we care too,” said 8-year-old Zachary Fenn, a student-actor.
“If your parents are deployed and you miss them a lot, (you might think) no body cares about it. But then they’ll see and be like, wow, somebody does care about it,” Howard added.
The film project allowed students to show their concern while exploring their creativity and enhancing their education.

“I am a strong believer in writing, and this is something that had to be creative because if you are told to write a certain way, then you’ll never be able to use your imagination,” said Patz. “I think imagination is so important for these kids... I think they learned a lot, and got a lot from this activity, far more than they would have gotten out of a book.”
The film, Patz said, also offered life lessons for the class.
“I hope that if I leave them with anything, I’ve left them with respecting each other and learning how to work with each other and work with those you don’t like,” she said.
Lagow plans to surprise her mom with both the lessons learned and the final production.
She knows that after viewing the film she and her classmates worked on for more than five months, her mom will say, “that’s the most wonderful movie I’ve ever seen in my whole life.”
The GES video club helped the students tape the production which was distributed to parents of students in the class. Deployed parents will receive a copy of the film in the mail.

GRAF GOING GREEN ? Garrison testing feasibility of electric cars

by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

The U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr is going green, but they need your help.
The garrison is testing three electric vehicles over the next six months in an effort to save both money and the environment.
“The vehicles are less expensive than the big American gasoline driven vehicles,” said Theo Arnold, non-tactical vehicle fleet manager for the garrison’s Department of Logistics. “These are cheaper and air pollution should be less.”
The vehicles, two cars and one truck, are being used by various units to gain feedback and evaluate if it would be cost effective to replace traditional cars in the garrison fleet with electric cars.
“The problem is, we cannot get these vehicles in addition to the vehicles we already have,” Arnold explained.
“If we cannot reduce our regular fleet by putting electric cars into the fleet, it doesn’t make

sense,” he said.
DOL’s Transportation Chief Jose Rodriguez found benefits in the price alone.
“We are talking about a lot of saving in just cost alone,” he said. “I think we could buy two of the electric cars for the price of one gas-driven car.”
Rodriguez found other benefits in the ease of charging the cars.
“It drives like a golf cart and you can plug it into all wall sockets. I believe the vehicles are seven working hours, but we will need to test that ourselves,” he said.
The vehicles, which have a max speed of 40 kilometers per hour, are perfect for individuals who need to travel short distances on a single installation, he said.
Phillip Cleveland, postal operation supervisor, finds the car a welcome change to the postal fleet.
“It’s very peppy,” he said. “It has a lot of get up and go... It handles just like a regular car would. As long as it is good weather, it will work for us.”

Postal worker Erika Taylor shares Cleveland’s enthusiasm for the two-seater.
“I like it,” she said. “It gets the job done. It is cost efficient and it is convenient for the weather we are having now. It allows us better access to the mailboxes, and we don’t have to fill up as far as gas goes.”
With its many benefits, the electric vehicles also bring limitations to the garrison.
The vehicles are limited to missions on post, have only two seats, cannot carry cargo, and the door, which often flaps in the wind, may not protect the driver from a winter chill.
“This type of vehicle is designed for administrative uses,” Rodriguez said.
“The most important thing is that they are here for a test. Everybody who wants to test them needs to report to the TMP and ask for a vehicle, just to give it a try,” said Arnold. “At the moment, we do not pull vehicles (in exchange).”
For more information on testing the electric cars, call DSN 475 8304/6994, CIV 09641 83 8304/6994.

Spotlight on Education



Name: Mike Pryor
What grade / subject do you teach? English 10, Drama 9-12, Speech 9-12
Hometown: Santa Rosa, Calif.
How long have you been a teacher? 39 years
What do you like best about teaching? Working with young people.
What advice can you give students to help them succeed in school? Calm down!

New postage rate increase in effect Monday

U.S. Army Post Office news release

The United States Postal Service will increase postage rates effective Monday for first-class mail, standard mail, periodicals, package services, and special services:
■ A first-class letter mail stamp for a one ounce letter will increase from 41 to 42 cents and from 58 to 59 cents for up to a two ounce letter.
■ Postcards will increase from 26 to 27 cents. Up to two ounce flat envelopes will increase from 97 cents to \$1.
■ Certified letter mail will increase from \$2.65 to \$2.70.
■ International letter mail up to one ounce will increase from 69 to 72 cents, and for letter mail up to two ounces it will increase from 90 to 94 cents.
■ New prices for shipping services, i.e., express mail and priority mail, can be found on the USPS Web site <http://www.usps.com/prices/new-prices.htm>.
U.S. Postal customers can continue to use ‘Forever Stamps’ purchased prior to Monday at 41cents for a first class letter, even after the postage increase.
The Postal Service has 5 billion ‘Forever Stamps’ in stock to meet increased demand prior to the price increase.
For employees on post, ‘Forever Stamps’ are available through your local APO or online. If you are in the U.S. on leave or business, you can purchase ‘Forever Stamps’ at Post Offices, Automated Centers, the Postal Store and vending machines.
A list of the new USPS rates and U.S. zip code zone charts will be posted on the A/LM/PMP/DPM Web site <http://pouch.a.state.gov> under the U.S. Postal Service link.

Before you move this summer, know what items are banned from import

by ROBERT SZOSTEK
USEUCOM Customs

People moving to the States this summer should start preparing now by finding new homes for the things that are banned from import.
It is also a good idea to apply early for import permits on restricted items since the process can take months, customs officials advise.
“Prohibited items include meat and

meat products such as sausage, pâté and salami, as well as plants and destructive devices,” said Bill Johnson, director of the U.S. European Command’s Customs and Border Clearance Agency.
“If you’re planning on shipping firearms, ensure you have proof that you owned them in the States or have an import permit,” he said.
He also explained that other important points to remember are:

- Owners of vehicles not made to U.S. standards have to ship them through commercial importers registered with the Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency. However, vehicles more than 25 years old are exempt from this rule.
- Mopeds and motorcycles must also meet U.S. safety and pollution standards and all vehicles must be free

- of dirt, insects and vegetation.
- Wine collections can be shipped with advance coordination with the transportation office.
- Endangered species items such as ivory and some furs may only be shipped if owners can prove they were previously owned in the U.S. or are antiques over 100 years old.
- State attorneys general must approve imports of gambling devices.

These devices must be registered with the Justice Department in Washington D.C.
For more information on this other customs issue contact your local customs office in Grafenwoehr DSN: 475-7249, Vilseck DSN: 476-2105, Hohenfels DSN: 466-2012, Garmisch DSN: 440-3601, Bamberg 469-7460, Schweinfurt 354-6842, or visit the Web site <http://www.hqusaareur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm>.

Sustainment Soldiers remember comrade killed in training accident

Story and photo by
Sgt. KEITH M. ANDERSON
16th SB Public Affairs

Soldiers and loved ones gathered at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr's Tower Theater April 21 to say goodbye to Spc. Seth Allen Miller, 2nd Platoon, 23rd Ordnance Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade.

"Specialist Miller always had a great attitude," said Capt. Jerome Barnard, commander, 23rd Ordnance Co., during his eulogy for Miller. "He never complained about tough tasks and loved to Soldier. From the day I met him I don't think I ever met him without a smile on his face."

The 27-year-old twin from Monticello, Calif., originally from Visalia, Calif., died April 14 after being pinned between two palletized loading systems at the Joint Multinational Training Command in the Grafenwoehr Training Area. His company was training for an upcoming deployment to Iraq.

"His death was truly a tragic accident, but because of the person I know he was, he would want us to Soldier on, to become better Soldiers and leaders and to do the best we could to protect others from similar

accidents," Barnard said.

Barnard read a letter from Joy Costa, Miller's mother.

"With this tragedy that we know was a terrible accident that Seth would say could easily have been on his hands, we have learned the true meaning of how you (U.S. Army) are here to protect and to serve us," Costa wrote. "In much the same way as you travel the globe to protect the innocent and weak, our family has felt your presence, and seen the amazing way you come to our rescue."

Costa wrote that her son dreamed of becoming a professional football player.

"From the day that Seth first starting playing football in grade school, he wanted to play pro sports," Costa wrote. "Not long after he had been with you in Grafenwoehr, I was talking with him about how things were going. I will never forget how he told me, 'Mom, you know I always wanted to play on a professional sports team, now I'm on the greatest pro sports team in the world.'"

Miller's death was a loss for the platoon, said Sgt. Peter Laesch, retention non-commissioned officer and section sergeant, 2nd Platoon, 23rd Ordnance Co.

"He was a man amongst men,"



(Left) First Sgt. Patricio Cardona, first sergeant, 23rd Ord. Co. 18th CSSB, 16th SB calls out roll call during the memorial service for Spc. Seth Allen Miller. The 27-year-old twin from Monticello, Calif., originally from Visalia, Calif., died April 14 after being pinned between two palletized loading systems at the Joint Multinational Training Command in the Grafenwoehr Training Area. His company was training for an upcoming deployment to Iraq. (Right) An April 21 memorial ceremony was held at Grafenwoehr's Tower Theater, where Soldiers and family members bid Miller a final farewell.

Laesch said. "He was quick to defend others, and he will be very much missed amongst the Soldiers in our platoon."

Miller's awards and decorations include the Army Commendation

medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct medal, the National Defense Service ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Service medal, the Army Service ribbon, and the Overseas Service ribbon.

Miller is survived by his mother, Joy Costa, his father, David Miller, his brothers Jeremy and Marty, and his twin sister, Michaela.

The Army is investigating the cause of the accident.



ACS offers tips for special needs families facing PCS *Know before you go! Smooth PCS move not impossible for EFMP families*

by FRANCES ANDERSON
USAG Stuttgart Army Community Service

Moving is an integral part of military life. While the opportunity to experience different places can be one of the perks of a highly mobile lifestyle, it's also one of the greatest challenges.

Executing a permanent change of station move in a way that creates a smooth transition for the entire family is rarely as effortless as some PCS veterans make it seem.

When a family has a member with special needs, it can be even more complicated. Here are a few tips to ensure a smooth move for families with special needs.

Get updated

If you have family members with special needs, make sure they are enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program and that the enrollment information is current.

This allows assignment managers

to consider the medical and special education needs of family members during the assignment process, minimizing the chance those family members will be sent to locations without necessary services.

Do your homework

Special education criteria and services, academic standards, access to programs, and promotion and graduation requirements vary from state to state and even from school to school.

For military children, who may change schools six to nine times during their K-12 years, it is essential that parents understand these differences.

Tapping into resources such as school liaison officers and EFMP managers is a good way to start gathering information about educational services at your new duty station.

Surf the Web

There are many online resources

available. The IMCOM-Europe European Army Family Toolbox (www.imcom-europe.army.mil/sites/local) offers a link to a bounty of information about EFMP and Soldier and Family Assistance Centers.

The Military Child Education Coalition Web site (www.militarychild.org) features SchoolQuest, an interactive service that provides meaningful facts, resources, and transition advice about schools serving military communities.

At the Military Homefront Web site (www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil) the Plan My Move program features information of interest to families with special needs.

For a state-by-state listing of resources, visit The National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities Web site (www.NICHCY.org).

Know when to hold 'em

Plan to hand carry important documents such as copies of

educational records and assessments, Individual Family Service Plans, Individual Education Plans, medical records, and any special equipment, medication refills or medical supplies your family member may need during the next few months.

Make the connection

Once you know where you're going, pay a visit to your local Army Community Service office.

The EFMP coordinator will work directly with you to identify your family's community support needs, and communicate them to the EFMP representatives at your new duty station.

Make contact with the EFMP coordinator at your new duty station before your move and touch base again once you arrive.

As your advocate, he or she is there to troubleshoot potential bumps in the road and to help you access the resources that will ensure a smooth transition for your family.



Courtesy photo

Ensure your special needs family member is enrolled in EFMP before you move.



Photo by Mary Markos

New beginnings

Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (right) and Col. Margaret Burcham, the commander of the USACE-Europe, make the ceremonial first cut of the cake at the Netzaberg Child Development Center and Youth Services Center ribbon cutting ceremony April 23. The centers are expected to open this summer.

Visitors need customs office approval to drive U.S. Army Europe-plated vehicles

by ROBERT SZOSTEK
USEUCOM Customs

U.S. forces personnel in Germany who are planning trips for visiting friends or family members this summer can let their guests share the driving, but customs officials say they must approve visiting drivers before guests can take U.S. Army Europe-plated cars on their own excursions.

"Just go to your local military customs office and fill out the application form," said Bill Johnson, director of the USAREUR Customs Executive Agency. "If you want to complete the paperwork before your relatives or friends arrive, you must bring along clear copies of their

passports and Stateside or international driver's licenses."

One key provision is that guests cannot be residents in Germany. It is also important to make sure that your automobile insurance covers your visitors.

Guests can use this exception to policy to drive USAREUR-registered privately owned vehicles in Germany for up to 90 days after arrival in Europe, officials said.

Visiting drivers must have the exception document, their passports and international driver's licenses (or an official translations of their licenses), the vehicle registration, and proof of insurance in the car when they drive.

"Driving in Germany is tax- and duty-free for U.S. forces personnel and their dependents only," Johnson explained, which is why the customs authorization is required.

He also warned that the approval allowing guests to drive does not permit them to use Army and Air Force Exchange Service fuel cards or gas coupons, or buy gas at AAFES stations. This is also true for visitors to Germany who rent cars.

For more information on guest drivers in Germany and other European countries, as well as customs office locations, visit the customs Web site at www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/custom3.htm, or call the customs hot line at 381-7610 or 0621-7307610.

Don't forget to tell them you read it in the Bavarian News

What's in a tire?

De-mystifying the black art of tire designations

by **BILL ANDREWS**
AMA Direct Link

It's a rotten feeling. You look down at your tire, and there's no denying that those nice deep grooves have become a shadow of their former selves. It's a goner, and it's getting worse with every mile.

As you look around your local shop for a new tire, you see all sorts of letters and words on the sidewalls. Would you believe just about everything you need to know about a tire, including when it was made, is contained there?

It's really not that difficult to decipher the black art of tire designations, and knowing what you've got makes you a well-educated consumer -- which is never a bad thing.

Tire size

First off, there's those big numbers and letters that may read something like 130/90 16, or MT90 16. These numbers indicate the size of the tire, and the rim it's designed to go on. In this case, these are both the same size tires.

How can we tell?



Let's start with the first series of numbers, 130/90 16, otherwise known as the metric designation. This is the most popular nomenclature today and it's practically a standard in the automotive world.

The 130 designates the tire's width in millimeters, measured in a straight line through the tire from one edge of the tire's tread to the other.

The second number, 90, is a bit trickier to understand. This represents the aspect ratio between the tire's width and its height, or how tall a tire is in relationship to its width.

Simply put, the higher this number is, the taller the tire will be. In this case, the tire is 90 percent as tall as its width, or 117mm.

The last number, 16, is the tire's rim diameter expressed in inches.

The width on some tires may be expressed in inches as well, but usually the aspect ratio is left off.

The other series of numbers and letters, MT90 16, represents the same tire size, but it's expressed in an alphabetical code. M means the tire is designated for motorcycle use, T is the tire width code, 90 is the aspect ratio and 16 is

Tires: What everyone should know

by **BOB MCGAFFIN**
USAG Grafenwoehr Safety Office

Most people understand that when the wear bars start to appear in the tread, it's time to start shopping for new tires. What most people don't know is that a tire deteriorates with age even if it just sits in the garage or on the car in the driveway.

Tires are made from petroleum compounds and manmade materials. The petroleum compounds are what help make the tire flexible, allowing it to reach the designed operating temperature quickly and conform to the smallest changes in the road surface.

After a number of years (five for motorcycles and seven for cars), these compounds will evaporate and the tread rubber will start to harden. You may not notice the difference because the change is gradual.

If you want to have the maximum traction from tires, you need to start looking at replacements regardless of the tread condition. Everybody knows how much better a car or motorcycle handles with new tires.

Beware of used tires for the same reason. It might look good, but how old is it? Many times the main reason retailers run sales on tires is because the distributor wants to clean out stock that is nearing "old age" status.

It helps to know how to decipher all of the markings on a tire. The following article is reprinted with permission from the American Motorcyclist Association, www.AMADirectlink.com.

It explains the markings on tires and tells you how to determine the manufacture date of the tire along with other important information. This is important for car owners and absolutely critical for motorcycle owners.

the rim diameter.

Size conversion chart			
Front tires		Rear tires	
Metric	Alphanumeric	Metric	Alphanumeric
80/90	MH90	110/90	MN90
90/90	MJ90	120/80	MP85
100/90	MM90	120/90	MP85
110/90	MN90	130/90	MT90
120/90	MR90	140/90	MU90
130/90	MT90	150/80	MV85
		150/90	MV85

The alpha-numeric system is the older method for tire sizing. And in the old days, tires just didn't get much bigger than an MV85, which corresponds to a 150mm width. Therefore, newer tires larger than 150mm will only carry the metric sizing designation.

Speed and construction

Interspersed with these sizing numbers, you're likely to find other letters that'll appear as such: 160/70VR 16, 170/60R 16V, or in other combinations. These two extra letters indicate speed rating and tire construction.

Each letter in the speed rating notes the maximum speed a tire can sustain under its recommended load capacity.

For instance, V is equivalent to a maximum speed of 149 mph. Because this rating system was created in Europe, the increments per letter are in 10 kilometers per hour.

Rating	miles/hour	kilometers/hour
Q	99 mph	160 km/h
S	112 mph	180 km/h
T	118 mph	190 km/h
U	124 mph	200 km/h

H	130 mph	210 km/h
V	149 mph	240 km/h
W	168 mph	270 km/h
Y	186 mph	300 km/h
Z	Over 149 mph	Over 240km/h

The next letter, R, indicates the construction used within the tire's casing. R stands for radial construction and B means belted bias.

Load and pressure codes

The next number or letter you may encounter, after the tire size, is the load index. This is the weight the tire is capable of handling when properly inflated.

It's usually expressed in either a numerical code or a letter code. Most manufacturers will also spell out on the sidewall what that maximum load is so there's no guessing—you'll find it usually listed with the tire's maximum air pressure.

It's good to note here that you should only fill a tire to the motorcycle manufacturer's recommended level.

Besides under inflation, one of the biggest mistakes people make with their tires is to overfill them to the maximum level indicated on the sidewall. This leads to poor handling and premature wear.

If in doubt, either consult your owner's manual, contact your local dealer, or go to the



tire manufacturer's Web site. Most include the recommended pressure for each motorcycle, along with other tire options.

And be sure to measure pressure when the tire is cold. Measuring hot will skew the numbers.

Rotation and balance marks

One of the more critical marks on a motorcycle tire is the rotation arrow, or arrows. Today's specialized tires generally have a tread pattern that must go in only one direction. Some manufacturers even state that their tread patterns are designed to disperse water, and by mounting the tire backwards, they won't work.

The other big reason for noting wheel direction has to do with the manufacturing process. The tread rubber is initially a flat strip that's cut to length, at an angle, and then spliced together with the two ends overlapping, creating a hoop.

Under acceleration, a tire mounted backwards will try to peel back this splice. The opposite is true for the front wheel, where directional forces are reversed under hard braking.

Another mark to look for when mounting a tire is a painted balance dot, or dots. Most tires are pre-balanced by the manufacturer. They will then put a mark on the tire indicating where the valve stem should line up.

Born on date, and wear's the tread?

Other useful information on the tire's sidewall includes its manufacturing date. Look on the side for a raised block with four digits; it's usually next to the U.S. DOT tire identification number.

The first two indicate the week of its manufacture, and the last two are for the year. For example, 1702 would indicate the tire was manufactured in April, 2002. Prior to 2000, there were only three digits, with the last one indicating the year.

Some tires may have raised triangles, or the letters TWI, to show where the tire wear indicators are in the tread. When these marks are equal to the tread, it's time for new tires.



Anything else?

Other information on the sidewall is usually spelled out; "tubeless" or "tube type" may be substituted with the letters TL or TT respectively, and the tire ply, composition and materials used may also be spelled out.

Now you know all you need to know to have an intimate conversation with the black hoops around your rims.

Keeping your kids safe

by **MICHAEL SCHWARZ**
USAG Grafenwoehr Safety Director

Families attending The Vilseck Kinderfest April 26 took advantage of the child protective seat inspection sponsored by the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr safety office, and were surprised at what they found.

Three of Grafenwoehr's certified child protective seat inspectors, Isabel Tilzey, Michelle Ramsey, and Sylvia Johnson, assessed 22 child protective seats and identified 18 that were incorrectly installed.

Most seats were too loose. One seat was identified on a recall list and one seat is due to expire next month.

The statistics gathered at this event agree with the national average: seven out of 10 child protective seats are found to be incorrectly installed.

It is important to choose a child safety seat that fits tightly in your vehicle and is appropriate for your

child's age, height, and weight.

Every participant in this event walked away with a greater respect for how challenging it is to correctly install their child's safety seat.

All three inspectors will tell you it is very important to register your child protective seat with the manufacture so that any recall information can be forwarded to you.

Also, follow the manufacture's instruction book carefully when installing your child's safety seat. If the child's safety seat is not used properly, your child will not be fully protected in a crash.

Total seats checked: 22
Total seats installed correctly: 4
Total seats with misuse: 18
Percent of child seats misused: 82 percent
Total number of errors: 46
Average number of errors per misuse: 2.6 errors per seat
Number of seats installed new: 1
Number of AAFES coupons given away: 19



WTU Soldiers focus on more than healing

Story and photos by Pfc. JERRY WILSON
7th Army JMTC Public Affairs

You're 26-years-old, newly married, and just had your first child. You've been described by your peers as a hard-charging sergeant, whose leadership ability is on the level with most senior noncommissioned officers with five times the experience.

You have survived combat zones in Afghanistan and recruiting duty. Your future career goal of becoming an officer seemed to be within your grasp until one fateful day when all that would change forever. You wake up with an illness that renders you incapable of being a Soldier.

For Sgt. Jason Dula, this wasn't a dream but rather a harsh reality.

A blister on the cornea of his left eye affected his vision so badly that he could no longer do his job. In the past, injured Soldiers like Dula would have to juggle their many medical appointments with the rigorous demands of the duty day.

But things have changed. He is a member of the newly formed Warrior Transition Unit, located in Vilseck.



Sgt. Robert Railing teaches the proper respiration technique for the CPR class held in Vilseck. Railing helps teach this class as part of his duty day at the WTU.

Commander of the Joint Multinational Training Command, Brig. Gen. David R. Hogg praised the WTU staff and its Soldiers for their courage and dedication. The WTU is the Army's answer to the increasing needs of Soldiers with injuries and illnesses that require extensive care.

According to Hogg, the establishment of WTU is a clear sign that the Army is doing everything in its power to take care of our fighting men and women.

"These Soldiers have completed their mission with honor, and though they are currently unable to continue this fight, their pride as a Soldier has not wavered," Hogg said. "Their mission now is simple, but perhaps one of the most challenging fights they will ever face, as their goal is to heal."

The Soldiers have served selflessly and with great dedication and conviction, and the WTU is one way the Army is giving back to its Soldiers.

"I feel the Army is doing a great job of taking care of these heroes," said Capt. Lamin Yarbo, a nurse and case manager for the WTU. "When it comes to assessing care needs there should be no impediments or roadblocks to making that happen. I think our Warriors deserve nothing less."

In addition to meeting the medical needs of the Soldiers under his care, Yarbo and his staff assist each Warrior in preparing for the next step in their recovery.

While some Soldiers may choose to remain on active duty, retraining into a job they can perform within their physical capabilities, others transition back to the civilian world.

In between their medical appointments, Soldiers are encouraged to take online college courses or volunteer their talents to the community. Many are placed with local units learning new jobs for when they heal and return to active service.

According to Yarbo, the Soldiers in the WTU are very motivated and maintain a positive attitude, despite their wounds.

His injury has not slowed down Dula; the hard-charging Soldier has thrown himself into getting his bachelor's degree in business.

"My theory is you can't dwell on what's not going to happen," he said, "because that will hinder what you are able to make happen."

Dula looks upon his time in the WTU as a chance to evaluate what he wants to do next. He has already attended several job interviews while at the WTU, and likens them to going before a promotion board.

"It took me from one route I was on, pursuing a military career, to having to put a serious effort toward an education and transitioning back to being a civilian," Dula said.



Sgt. Jason Dula undergoes one of the many eye exams he has taken since contracting a fever blister on his eye. Doctor's appointments are part of the regular duty day for Soldiers in the Warrior Transition Unit.

While some Soldiers further their educational goals, others take the time to help educate others.

Sgt. Robert Railing is a combat medic who suffered two ruptured discs in his lower lumbar area serving in Iraq. His condition progressively worsened and after returning home underwent surgery to correct the problem.

"I could have opted for a series of spinal injections, but decided to get the operation," he said. "My intention is to get healed, and get back to work."

Railing became an emergency medical technician before joining the service because

he loved helping others. His injury has not stopped him from continuing to help people.

When Railing isn't studying for his EMT recertification online, he volunteers his time teaching Vilseck community members CPR classes.

Both Dula and Railing say the cadre of the WTU has helped them stay positive, and focused on life after the WTU.

"I have to commend my cadre," Yarbo said. "They are on top of their jobs. These are well-seasoned NCOs who have impeccable leadership skills. I couldn't be more proud of them."

Walking a fine line



Photo by Paula Guzman

Sp. Jonathan Sisk, 5th Quartermaster Co., Kaiserslautern, deals with his fear of heights as he and his fellow Soldiers maneuver a training exercise at the Leader Reaction course on Camp Algiers. The Soldiers are attending the Warrior Leaders Course, at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Grafenwoehr April 22.

JMTC IED awareness course saves Soldier, civilian lives

Story and photo by Pfc. JERRY WILSON
7th Army JMTC Public Affairs

Department of Defense statistics show more than 4,000 U.S. personnel have died during the ongoing war in Iraq. Many of these deaths result from improvised explosive devices.

More than 38 Soldiers throughout U.S. Army Europe gathered at the Joint Multinational Training Command's Grafenwoehr Training Area to take part in a three-day training course, the Improvised Explosive Device awareness course.

You are part of a patrol of Soldiers walking up what appears to be a deserted road in a small Iraqi town. You and the rest of your squad are on alert for anything that looks unusual. You pass a traffic circle with a dead animal on the side of the road.

One of your fellow Soldiers sees a culvert in the road up ahead. He rushes forward to investigate. He starts to walk in front of the opening when a loud siren screeches filling the air.

The siren is a simulator used to represent an IED detonation. During a real life incident, he and several of the Soldiers in the vicinity would have been injured or killed due to an IED hidden deep inside a pipe under the road.

During the IED awareness course, scenarios prepare Soldiers for missions performed downrange. These scenarios familiarize students with all possible situations they may encounter.

"This training is designed to update Soldiers on the latest tactics techniques and procedures used by insurgent forces in Iraq and Afghanistan," said IED instructor Lance DeLong.

"We teach students how to identify certain key terrain features utilized by an insurgent for an IED site," said DeLong.

Supported by the Combined Arms Training Center, the course is taught by instructors from the Joint Asymmetrical Threat and Counter IED program at Ft. Irwin, Calif. The program, contracted by the Joint Center of Excellence, sends experts to various bases throughout the United States. This was the first time the course was conducted overseas.

Soldiers attending the course will take lessons learned back to their units to train others.

What happens when a student finds a suspected IED placement?

DeLong explained that if a unit or IED team has robotic or optic equipment, they scour the area looking for possible evidence of IED placement.

"They would use optics to look for

finite indicators such as wires, disturbed dirt, det cord...anything that is abnormal," he said. "The absence of normalcy is really the indicator they are looking for."

You are on patrol in Iraq. You have been through the IED awareness course and now have the opportunity to use what you learned.

As you walk through a small town, you notice a strange pattern of rocks in the road. You halt your squad and investigate further, uncovering a wire attached to an oddly shaped container hidden within the rubble.

You pull your team back to a safe distance and radio for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team. EOD finds an IED connected to a string of explosives that would have leveled everything in the area.

Thanks to your training, you and your fellow Soldiers live to carry on with the mission.



Two students from the IED Awareness course prepare a simulated roadside bomb with pressure plate during a field exercise.

Paradise lost ... & found

Community bands together to help family in need

by **JOHN REESE**
USAG Garmisch Public Affairs Officer

It started out as a ski vacation in the Alpines, a break from life in Tunisia for a naval attaché and his family. It became the U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch community reaching out to guests in urgent need.

Lt. Cmdr. Matt Lane and his family – wife Joy and sons Jaymeson, Jordan, and Joseph – were enjoying themselves April 10 when Joy suffered an accident while skiing on the Zugspitze. Joy, a nurse, made it back to the lodge, where a ski patrol provided a wheelchair for the cable car ride off the mountain.

The first thing Lane did was contact the USAG Garmisch Tricare office.

“We met (Tricare representative) Laura Bertuzzi,” said Lane. “Without a doubt she was the hero throughout this adventure.”

Joy was taken to the Garmisch Krankenhaus, as it became clear that the severity of her injury and additional complications meant surgery and a nine-day stay in the hospital – along with a delay in returning to Tunisia.

Bertuzzi guided the Lanes through admission processes for treatment, and continued helping the family settle in for the duration.

“More than once she came to the hospital to check on Joy, which meant a lot as the hospital (staff) spoke limited English,” said Lane.

Plus she supported the children.

“She realized the challenges associated with occupying our three boys during this ordeal, made a few calls and arranged for my sons to join the after-school programs already in place,” said Lane.

Bertuzzi contacted Child and Youth Services director Ellen Harris, who said she would be happy to help, as the boys were quickly signed into the Teen Center and after-school hourly care.



Courtesy photo
The U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch community pulled together to help the Lane family after a skiing accident. (From left) Matthew, Jordan, Joy, Jaymeson, and Joseph.

“Both the Teen Center for my two older boys and the School Age Services for my youngest son were incredible,” said Lane. “My boys felt immediately at home; we felt very confident in the programs.”

“The ladies supporting my youngest son at the SAS were elated to see my wife for the first time two days before (we left) Garmisch, making it clear they had been thinking about her all along. This made a huge impact on Joy.”

The accident and extended stay in an expensive resort town also meant the Lane family was facing huge, unplanned expenses. Bertuzzi contacted the Navy’s medical evacuation authorities in Europe, arranging for the family’s return to Tunisia, saving what Lane termed “a tremendous amount of money.”

Bertuzzi understood their worries.

“The family had big concerns about their out-of-pocket costs,” said Bertuzzi. “They had to

stay longer than planned, and (there were) expenses for food, transportation, local and return flights, and three boys.”

Extending their accommodations during the ski season was another problem. The popular Armed Forces Recreation Center Edelweiss Lodge, where the Lanes were staying, was booked to capacity, but a family-sized cabin was available at the nearby Vacation Village on Artillery Kaserne.

Lane complimented the reception desk staff for their efforts, saying: “They immediately realized our situation and gave us the personal attention we needed.”

While the Lanes stayed 11 days at the campground, the boys made new friends at the Garmisch Teen Center and SAS. They were provided with food and activities, and enjoyed using the adjacent post library.

“It was a big relief to parents, it allowed them to concentrate on Mom getting well rather than ‘Oh no, what can we do with the kids?’” said Bertuzzi.

Lane kept busy at the Espresso Coffee Bistro, using free internet service to research flight schedules, and made use of other facilities on the close-knit installation.

The support provided by people in and around USAG Garmisch was invaluable during the challenging time, said Lane.

“However, it was the personal attention we received by folks, who went out of their way, that made the difference, enabling us to pull through,” said Lane.

“Due to the efforts of many, with Laura Bertuzzi leading the way, we already look back on our experience in Garmisch with the fondest of memories and are making plans to return next winter,” he said.

Almost three weeks following Joy’s accident, the family returned to Tunisia.

Garmisch MWR Kinderfest sees nearly 200 children

Story and photo by **JOHN REESE**
USAG Garmisch Public Affairs Officer

Fire trucks, golfing tips, a puppet show, and a host of other kid-friendly activities greeted about 200 children at the garrison Kinderfest April 26 at the Pete Burke Center.

Normally a Saturday Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation event like the Kinderfest on this small outpost garners about 70 children, but with 100 percent occupancy at the near-by Armed Forces Recreation Center hotel, the spread word to guests, tripling the number of kids participating.

There was more than enough fun spread out inside, outside, and over the center to keep the youngsters amused, with a good number of teenagers and adults also showing up to take a look or help out.

Tables set up inside the main room held wonders like the very popular “goop,” a simple mixture of corn starch, water, and food coloring served on a cafeteria tray that kids loved to squish and drip from their fingers, or the double pleasure of decorating a cookie before munching it. Enormous mounds of colored dough were

busily shaped and kept or squashed back to lumps for the next little artist to mold. The face painting was one of the most popular tables, with a third of the children sporting mild to wild styles.

In an adjoining smaller room with a padded floor for the day, kids learned the latest infant CPR techniques and witnessed a martial arts demonstration.

About 60 children, along with garrison manager Karin Santos, were kept spellbound in the library above the center watching a puppet show rendition of the classic Rumpelstiltskin. Librarian Ailien Patail provided the narration while acting was done by puppeteers. The kids paid rapt attention, answering when cued and laughing at the antics.

Outside the front of the center, kids got chipping lessons from a golf pro and retiree duffer, competed in the Junior Olympics Soccer Shoot Challenge, and created gigantic bubbles. A tricycle slalom course attracted almost as many adults as children, with volunteer civilians and Soldiers having equal shares of fun pedaling furiously.

A fire truck from the Freiwillige Feuerwehr

Garmisch got everyone’s attention with a blast of the siren. Moments later, the truck was swarming with curious youngsters under the watchful eyes of garrison Chief Wolfgang Pauls-Polch and volunteer firefighter Stefan Neuner, who also works as on the roads and grounds crew for the garrison.

Out in back, the large barbecue working at full capacity was swamped by demand for hot-off-the-grill burgers and hotdogs. The food sold faster than the volunteers could produce for the oversized-turnout, and teen volunteers had to make runs to the commissary for supplies and change.

“It’s really good seeing so many kids having a good time,” said Santos. “There were so many different activities that they were busy from the moment they arrived.”

Rohan Moise, 9, learns the fine art of making giant bubbles from FMWR Director Steve Gauthier, better known to the children as “Uncle Fargo.” The bubble table was one of the most popular attractions at the Kinderfest.



You’ve got to know when to hold ‘em, know when to fold ‘em

Hank Garza sees the bet while Caleb Despins fingers a chip awaiting his turn to sweeten the pot at the No Limit Texas Hold ‘Em Poker Tournament held at the Pete Burke Center April 19.

Twenty-eight poker faces entered to battle it out until Steven Arenaz was the big winner of the evening, taking the grand prize of a \$500 AAFES gift certificate.

Prizes ranged from \$25 and up gift certificates to folding poker tables and sets of chips.

Photo by Drew Benson

Teens forgo spring break for service project

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

For the third year in a row, a group of Hohenfels teens decided to forgo a spring break full of sun and relaxation and traveled instead to a former eastern bloc country to complete a service project.

“The first day we were there, which is critical for a construction project, it was the worst possible conditions: 39 degrees and pouring rain. But they were out there all day, not complaining, just working,” said Chris Howard, Hohenfels community director for Club Beyond.

The club is a religious based, interdenominational youth group for military teens. “That was the best witness to the Czech people that they would work during these conditions; people who were paid wouldn’t work during those conditions.”

The group from Hohenfels met up in Turnov, Czech Republic, with other Club Beyond groups from Vilsek, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, Baumholder, Weisbaden, Rota, and Darmstadt. The group of more than 200 people challenged many of the Turnov residents’ stereotypes about Americans.

“American students helped significantly to change the opinions of many Czech locals about America or U.S. Army,” said Peter Boudny, a Czech minister who organized the trip on the Czech side. “Yes, we would definitely work with them again. Even mayor of the town Hana Maierova and Czech senator Jaromir Jermar expressed their gratitude and appreciation and invited them again.”

In an article by Czech reporter Tomas Lansky published April 10 in the Czech paper Turnovský Deník, Renata Subertova, director of the dormitory the group worked at, talked about the students’ work ethic.

“They are unbelievably hard workers in all



Photo by Chris Howard

Hohenfels’ Andrew Rose, Gary Wayne Robertson, and Ben Barker take lumber to be cut for fence and stair posts. More than 25 teens and six adults spent five days in Turnov, Czech Republic over spring break building a playground as part of a Club Beyond service trip.

kinds of weather. I am very surprised by their attitude towards work,” Subertova said.

The Turnovský Deník article was one of five articles about the service project that appeared in Czech newspapers.

The teens, along with adult leaders, worked for five days on a community playground,

building a volleyball court, stairs, benches, fire pit, tables, and a fence. The specifics of the project were decided upon by Czech local authorities, principles of schools, church leaders, and site leaders from the park.

With the help of translators, the teens also held a carnival, played sports, and attended

English as a second language classes with local children.

“Helping other kids is fun for me because I know they enjoy it,” said sophomore Nathan Inbody who also went on the trip last year.

For Onyeuwa Fry, a junior, this was his first service project trip with Club Beyond.

“It was satisfying, not so much hard,” he said. “When you do something for yourself it’s not as satisfying, but I’m not doing it for me, I’m doing it for the kids who needed it more. And it gave me time to think.”

Fry said they had a full workload to begin with, and though the rain on the first day made it even more difficult, the group came together and finished the project some thought they wouldn’t be able to complete.

Howard said the vast majority of teens that go on the trip once return the next year. Inbody said he made sure to go this year since he knows he will be moving and won’t be able to go next year.

Inbody added that not all the teens that went were Club Beyond regulars.

“We build relationships with kids—it’s not about coming to our weekly meetings, like I’m going to like you if you come but not care about you if you don’t. We care about all of the kids on post. We try to stay involved in their lives,” said Howard.

Published next to the Czech article was a personal comment by a Czech reporter.

“Although I will take a risk that I will be called an agent of the USA, I would like to thank those 200 American students. Instead of taking drugs or drinking alcohol or loitering in the streets they did something that would make their ancestors proud. We needn’t be professional historians to know that their grandfathers laid their necks on the block in their fight against Nazism in occupied Europe. However, in a different way they follow their ancestors. If only we could say the same about ourselves...”

Box Seat Theatre wins honors at IMCOM-E

by JOANNE LOVE
MWR Entertainment Director

The Hohenfels Box Seat Theatre production of “Hold Please,” presented in March at the Community Activities Center, won awards for Best Costumes (the complete cast) and Best Set Design (Joanne Love) at the 2008 Installation Management Command Tournament of Plays

Topper Awards Show and Ceremony held in Heidelberg April 26.

“Hold Please” also received technical nominations for Best Lighting, Best Sound, Best Props, and Best Technical Director, and performance nominations for Best Debut Performance (Mary Wood), Best Supporting Actress (Ellen Schumann), Best Actress (Rosemary Smith), Best Drama, and Best

Director (Joanne Love).

Lt. Col. Gary Bloomberg, Hohenfels garrison commander, presented awards for Best Actors and Actresses in a musical. Chris Saucedo, Hohenfels deputy garrison commander, presented awards for Best Posters and Best Program Design.

More than 500 people attended the gala, including the entire “Hold Please” cast of Agatha

(Ellen Schumann), Erica (Brandy Stauber), Grace (Mary Wood), and Jessica (Rosemary Smith), along with Stage Manager Melonie Leon and Director Joanne Love.

Nineteen productions throughout Europe were represented in the competition, which included technical awards in 11 categories and performance awards in nine categories for dramas, comedies, and musicals.

Hohenfels bests Bamberg 3-0 in April 26 matchup

Story and photo by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Hohenfels’ varsity girls soccer team beat Bamberg, 3-0, April 26 to give Hohenfels a 3-1 record for the season and putting Bamberg at 1-3.

At halftime, neither team had managed to score. By the end of the game, Hohenfels had managed three goals on Bamberg goalie Jalessa Knuckles, while Bamberg remained unable to score on Hohenfels goalie Brittany Merriweather.

“We tried out a different offense in the first half which clearly didn’t work. Second half we went back to our normal offense and it made the difference,” said Hohenfels coach Kathlene Clemmons.

Bamberg coach Mark Reichert said it was a defensive lapse on the part of Bamberg which allowed Hohenfels two of their goals in the second half.

“I think my players are in good shape which allows them to play through the second half,” Clemmons said. “They also have a ‘never give up’ attitude.”

Clemmons credited the Hohenfels defense: Samantha Oberlin, Joyce Rollins, Jamie Cox, Nina Cox, and Allison Deane, with keeping them in the game during the first half, allowing the change in offensive strategy in the second half the chance to win the game. Loisann DeLass scored two of Hohenfels’ goals, Sunny Petery scored the other.

Reichert said his team has started passing the ball much better than in the beginning of the season, adding their performance during the game was a “solid team effort.”

Bamberg’s goalie, Knuckles, had 12 saves, Hohenfels goalie Merriweather had 5.

Bamberg has two games left this season: Saturday at Vilseck and May 17 at Baumholder.



Kristy-Rene Welch (right) Hohenfels senior mid-fielder, hustles to reach the ball before it goes out of bounds or is picked off by Bamberg’s Olivia Caba during the first half of play April 26 at Hohenfels.

Hohenfels plays at Patch Saturday and at home against Ansbach May 17.

The European Championships are scheduled for May 21-24 at Kaiserslautern.

Community mourns loss of devoted MWR employee

by KRISTIN BRADLEY
Bavarian News

Ralph Samuel, Army veteran and dedicated Morale, Welfare and Recreation employee, died last month of an apparent heart attack. He would have been 50 in October.

“He was a mentor and father figure to many on post. To me, he was my hero,” said his daughter Nicole Samuel.

Samuel was born in 1958 in Fredericksburg, Va. He enlisted in the Army in 1975 and spent his entire military career in Germany. After 15 years in the Army, he retired in 1991 and returned to Hohenfels to be near his children. He began working at clubs on post and had been at the Zone since it opened in 1998.

His daughter described him as a great cook who “made the best ribs ever.” In addition to managing the Zone, he also ran the rib shack in Albertshof for rotational Soldiers.

“He loved to sing. Music was very important to him; it was the love of his life,” Nicole said. “When I was little he sang in the Diamond Club in Regensburg with friends.”

“What I remember most about Sam is his smile, how he enjoyed talking about his children, and cooking for the club, what was going on that night and how he had to prepare for a certain amount of people. The club was Sam’s life,” said friend Priscilla Tolbert. “There was an instant love, if you will, about Sam; we could tell that Sam had a good heart.”

Samuel’s family held a memorial service at St. Andreas church in Parsberg April 19. Another service at the Zone is being planned.



Courtesy photo

A memorial service at the Zone in Hohenfels is being planned for Ralph Samuel, who died last month of an apparent heart attack.

“The club was his second home. He spent more time there than anywhere else, even on his days off,” said Nicole.

After the service, Samuel will be laid to rest in Virginia, near his mother.

He is survived by his brothers, Dennis and Roland, and three children, Nicole, 34; Toby, 27; and Elias, 7.

See the May 21 issue of the Bavarian News for the story on the local KONTACT Club awards!

Falcons a critical part of training team

by Capt. JUNEL JEFFREY
JMRC Public Affairs

Falcon Team observer/controllers and Joint Multinational Readiness Center aviation trainers integrated the “teach, coach, and mentor” philosophy during recent Operational Mentor and Liaison Team training by simulating both medical evacuation and attack/scout gunships with their fleet of world-renowned UH-1 Huey helicopters.

The JMRC recently hosted eight separate countries in support of the seventh cycle of OMLT training at the Hohenfels Training Area.

A key contribution to the NATO International Security Assistance Force mission towards developing the Afghan National Army, OMLTs are embedded throughout ANA ranks.

The aviation training accomplished several key training objectives including air-to-ground integration, medevac training, aviation planning, and close combat attack call-for-fire training.

Lt. Col. James Barker, senior Falcon observer/controller, who recently returned from a 15-month deployment as the 2nd Squadron, 6th Air Cavalry Regiment commander in Iraq, believes coached, realistic training is key in teaching OMLTs how to communicate with aviation forces.

“It’s our responsibility as aviation

professionals to ensure these troops are trained and confident when working with aviation downrange,” said Barker.

Each OMLT member had the opportunity to call for and bring in medevac and attack aircraft, essential skills Soldiers must grasp to successfully request air support in their often remote operating bases.

“We used to strive to get wounded Soldiers evacuated from the battlefield within the golden hour after he or she is wounded,” said Barker.

“Today, Army aviation’s goal is to be there within platinum minutes,” he said.

OMLT troops also called for attack aircraft support during situational training exercise lanes when faced with opposing forces, skillfully portrayed by 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment Soldiers.

Capt. J.B. Davis, an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior pilot and Falcon team member, said consistency is of great importance when conducting aviation training and preparing for deployment.

“There are never enough opportunities for these troops to work with real helicopters,” Davis said.

“As a result of integrating the Hueys into the training event, each of the OMLTs gained a greater understanding and confidence in integrating aviation assets as a combat multiplier.”



Photo by Spc. Alex Godinez

Falcon Team Hueys serve as attack assets supporting an Afghan National Army-led cordon and search mission.

British, American Soldiers come together after tragedy

Story and photo by
Sgt. KEITH M. ANDERSON
16th SB Public Affairs

British and American Soldiers going through separate rotations at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany attended a non-denominational, “joint, interagency, intergovernmental and multinational” worship service April 20 held by the 16th Sustainment Brigade Chaplain’s Office.

“We’re doing it to worship God,” said Chaplain (Maj.) James Boulware, brigade chaplain, 16th SB. “We held it primarily to bring full-spectrum religious support to the military personnel within our training area, and to recognize that though we may be in different military services or coming from different backgrounds, it’s an opportunity for us to get together.”

Soldiers from both the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, Grafenwoehr and British soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, 7th Armored Brigade, 1st

Armored Division, were at Hohenfels preparing for deployments to Iraq.

The service took on a somber tone because both the American and British units lost Soldiers during April training rotations at Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr.

A British soldier attached to the 2 R Anglian, died April 14 at the Regensburg University Hospital from injuries sustained in a vehicle-rollover accident at the Hohenfels Training Area, according to a news release.

The accident also injured several other British soldiers from the battalion, which was conducting a mission-rehearsal exercise.

U.S. Army Pfc. Seth Miller, 18th CSSB, 16th SB, was pronounced dead at the Amberg Klinikum at 6:40 p.m. April 14 after a 5 p.m. vehicle accident at the Joint Multinational Training Command, Grafenwoehr, in which Miller was pinned between two palletized loading system trucks.

“It’s only through adversity that we realize how close, how intimate, our bond as military members is,” said Padre Robin Richardson, padre, 2 R



Anglian, to the multinational congregation of Soldiers and leaders.

Richardson led a time of reflection for the Soldiers.

Maj. James Hart, second-in-command, 2 R Anglian, said he appreciated the joint worship service, and the opportunity to train with American forces at Hohenfels.

“I think it’s extremely positive, and we have been very fortunate to have this training opportunity,” Hart said.

Spc. Jessica McFadden, administrative clerk, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th SB, Bamberg, sang “God Has Smiled on Me,” to the

Spc. Jessica McFadden, administrative clerk, 16th Special Troops Battalion, 16th SB, Bamberg, prays with British Soldiers from the 32nd Engineer Regiment, during a non-denominational multinational worship service for British and American Soldiers going through separate rotations at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Hohenfels, April 20.

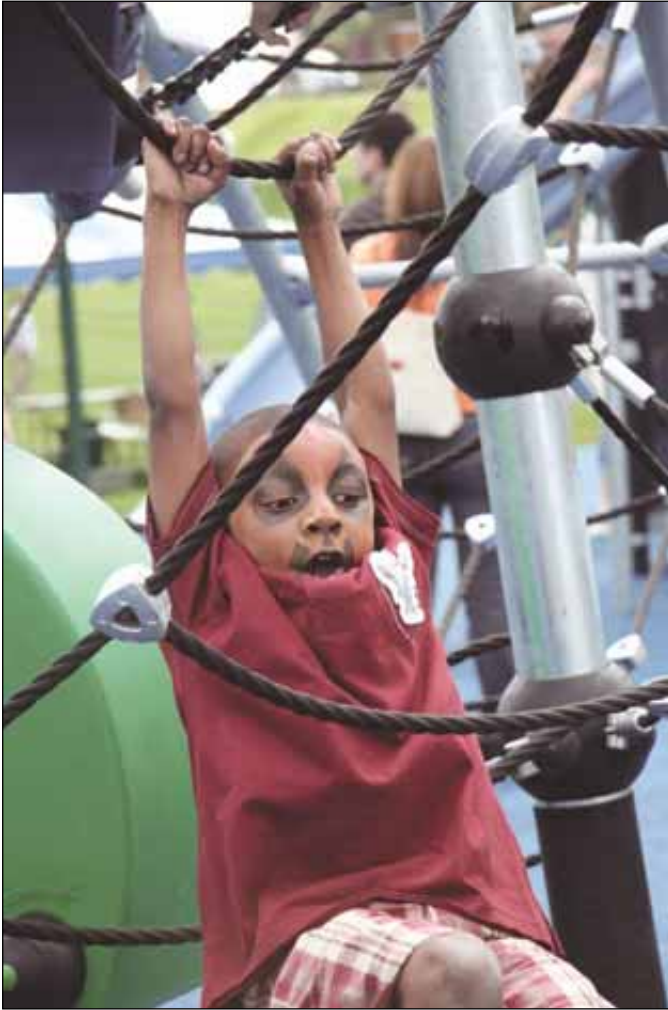
mixed congregation.

“It was very enlightening to have the privilege to sing for different Soldiers,” McFadden said. “It’s amazing how far we’ve come, as one, where different faiths and nations can come together and celebrate the same purpose.”

Monkeying around

More than 600 Hohenfels youth and adults attended the Child and Youth Services Spring Carnival April 26. The event included face painting, decorating cookies, a duck pond, fish pond, live gold fish booth, golfing, and jumping castles. Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers provided food and Army Community Service, the Community Bank, Service Credit Union, and the fire department all helped make the carnival a success.

Photo by Kristin Bradley



JMRC continues working toward full accreditation as JNTC program

by Capt. JUNEL JEFFREY
JMRC Public Affairs

The U.S. Joint Forces Command Accreditation and Certification Site Visit Team recently visited the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels for a follow-on accreditation and certification review of the training conducted at the center.

The team came in March, a follow-up from their visit in August 2006, to validate how well training here replicates real-world operations.

JMRC identified and sought validation on 20 training tasks. After the 2006 visit the center was conditionally accredited on eight of them, the most recent visit increased that number to 13.

According to Arnold Geisler, JMRC’s strategic planner, the visit was successful, and the readiness center is well on its way to being fully accredited.

“It is very difficult to achieve full accreditation and certification just on the basis of a visit such as the one that took place at the end of March,” said

Geisler. “We expected conditional accreditation and certification and achieved that goal.”

The readiness center is working with the Joint Warfighting Center to decrease the identified shortfalls and hopes to coordinate another follow-up visit to tackle the seven remaining tasks.

U.S. Joint Forces Command is one of the Department of Defense’s nine combatant commands and has several key roles in transforming the U.S. military’s capabilities.

Headquartered in Norfolk, Va., the command oversees a force of more than 1.16 million. In conjunction with the development of new doctrine, USJFCOM collects, analyzes and shares feedback from the warfighter. USJFCOM hosts the Joint National Training Capability that visited JMRC.

“Accreditation and certification as a JNTC program is important to our sister services as well,” said Geisler. “Units and organizations from the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps know that training at JMRC will give them the capability to train with Army units in a joint environment.”

“ We expected conditional accreditation and certification and achieved that goal. ”

Arnold Geisler
JMRC strategic planner

VILSECK
GERMAN-AMERICAN VOLKSFEST
16 - 18 MAY 2008

Vilseck German-American KONTAKT Club, supported by local organizations hosts German-American Volksfest.

Profits will support
"City of Vilseck
2nd Stryker Cavalry
Regiment Welcome
Home Celebration!"

Great entertainment
for all children and adults!
Carnival rides - musical entertainment, German-American
food specialties, Flohmarket, Bavarian Olympics...



Ansbach Briefs

‘It’s All About Me’

The USAG Ansbach Chaplain’s Office hosts a deployed spouses retreat at Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch Friday-Sunday with the theme “It’s All About Me.”

For more information or to register for the retreat, call the chaplain’s office at DSN 467-4826 or CIV 09841-836-826.

Mother’s Day Fun Run

The Bunch Fitness Center at Stork Barracks hosts a free 5-km Mother’s Day Fun Run/Walk Saturday at 10 a.m. For more information or to register, call DSN 467-4582 or CIV 09841-83-4582.

‘Trailer Park’

The Terrace Playhouse hosts its production of “The Great American Trailer Park,” musical Friday, Saturday, and May 16 and 17. Playhouse officials describe the musical as a hilarious romp that brings a quirky Florida trailer park to life. The smash hit was called “more fun than a chair-throwing episode of Jerry Springer set to music.” The show is designed for adults. For times, ticket information, reservations, or more information, call DSN 468-7636 or CIV 0981-183-636.

Outdoor rec’s got travel

Outdoor recreation offers many chances for people to get out and travel and take part in activities around Europe. Here are a few upcoming examples:

- Atlantis Water Park—tomorrow, free.
- Two-Castle Tour—Saturday, free.
- White water rafting and canyoning—May 17-18, cost \$175. The adventure starts on the Salzach River with a full day of rafting and a barbecue. One highlight of the trip is a 30-foot jump at the end of the gorge. Fee includes transportation, equipment, instruction and one overnight.

Sign up in advance for these activities at Katterbach Outdoor Recreation. For more information or for a full list of events, call DSN 467-3225 or CIV 09802-83-3225.

Toastmasters cancelled

Ansbach Toastmasters has cancelled today’s meeting. The next meeting will be held on May 21. The Ansbach Toastmasters club meets the first and third Wednesdays of every month from 6-7 p.m. at the ACS Classroom on the Katterbach Kaserne. Guests are always welcome to the dynamic and fun meetings, officials said, adding that Toastmasters is a great way to improve communication skills in a supportive environment. The program is proven, widely recognized and costs are minimal.

For more information, e-mail ansbachtm@yahoo.com or check out the Web site at www.geocities.com/ansbachtm.

Teen CYSitter Program

Child and youth services offers its Teen CYSitter program May 19-23 from 3:30-6:30 p.m. at the Yellow Ribbon Room on Katterbach. CYS officials said the program teaches teens key life skills, a sense of responsibility, increases their community involvement through the CYSitter Program to help parents in need of trained childcare providers, and trains them to provide age-appropriate care and resolve potentially dangerous situations. For more on the program, call DSN 467-2533 or CIV 09802-83-2533.

American Idol Karaoke

Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts free American Idol Karaoke Friday from 6-8 p.m. at the Von Steuben Community Recreation Center on Bismarck Kaserne. For more on the event, call DSN 467-2925 or CIV 09802-83-2925.

Register to vote

The Army’s Voting Assistance Program aims to ensure that Soldiers, their families, and DOD civilians overseas can exercise their right to vote. The USAG Ansbach Voting Assistance Program officers are Mohammad Alkadri and Scott Hamilton. Absentee ballots can be applied for by filling out the federal postcard application (Standard Form 76).

The form is available at the garrison command group or can be downloaded at <http://www.fvap.gov>. The Web site also features an automated federal postcard application. Filling out the form not only registers voters for an absentee ballot, but it also registers them to vote in federal, state and local elections. For more information, call Alkadri at DSN 468-7730 or CIV 0981-183-730.

Summer hire openings

Community youth have the opportunity to sign up for the annual summer hire program online at <http://cpolrhp.belvoir.army.mil/eur/index.htm> now through May 16.

Applicants are reminded to read the application procedures carefully and ensure all requirements are met to ensure a chance at one of the job openings. One requirement often missed by applicants is the need to bring in required hard-copy forms to the civilian personnel center on Barton Barracks.

For more information on the program, check out the Web site or give John Britton a call at DSN 468-7640 or CIV 0981-183-640.

Wiggles and Giggles

Army Community Service’s Wiggles and Giggles Playgroup and parent support group meets Thursdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Von Steuben Community Recreation Center. ACS welcomes parents with children between the ages of 0 and 3 to bring their children for a fun time playing and making new friends.

For more on the group, call DSN 467-2516 or CIV 09802-83-2516.

Knitting knowhow

Cobbled Corner Crafts offers its beginning knitting class Sundays from 2-4 p.m. at its shop on Barton Barracks. Cost is \$10.

For more information, call Cobbled Corner Crafts at DSN 468-7627 or CIV 0981-183-627.

Pet exercise program

The USAG Ansbach Veterinary Clinic offers a pet wellness program that includes nutritional guidance, ideas for increasing physical activity and monthly weigh-ins to track pets’ progress. The clinic also offers weekly walks Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. For more information, call the clinic at DSN 467-3179 or CIV 09802-83-3179.

Car inspections

The automotive skills centers on Barton Barracks and Stork Barracks in Illesheim offer free 110-point safety inspections on people’s cars. The free checks and inspections cover all of the systems, belts, lights, tires, brakes and glass for serviceability and safety. For more information, call the Barton center at DSN 468-7662 or CIV 0981-183-662, or the Stork center at DSN 467-4608 or CIV 09841-83-4608.

Paintball tourneys

The Katterbach Canyon paintball facility host two tournaments as part of its 2008 season. The first tournament is Saturday and the second is May 31. Cost for team registration is \$175. Teams will vie to be the best of the season with trophies awarded to the top three teams. The tournament is open to people ages 14 and older. Minors younger than 18 must have a waiver completed by their parents on the day of play. To register or get more information, call outdoor recreation at DSN 467-3225 or CIV 09802-83-3225.

AAFES info

Army and Air Force Exchange System officials offer the latest news, offers and information with their AAFES Buddy e-mails. To ensure you find out about the latest fuel prices, movie schedules and sales, send an e-mail to Chris Litch at litchc@aafes.com to get on the AAFES Buddy e-mail list.

No more walk-ins

The Illesheim Immunization Clinic no longer accepts walk-ins. Appointments should be made through the receptionist at DSN 467-5119 or CIV 09841-83-4512.

Help with a career

The USAG Ansbach Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program provides career development

and planning support to all community members.

Employment assistance offered includes: resume writing support, understanding the federal job application process, local national application information, local community jobs and information, educational support services, job searching, walk-in services, appointments and group classes. The office is located on Katterbach in the ACS building, Bldg. 5817-A, and is open Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call Erika Turner at DSN 467-2883 or CIV 09802-83-2883.

Scholarship opportunity

The Ansbach Spouses and Civilians Club’s scholarship applications for 2008 are available. This year, ASCC anticipates awarding \$6,000 in scholarships to students.

There are three different categories for scholarships this year to provide awards to high school senior military dependents, college students who are military dependents and ASCC members pursuing continuing education. All scholarship funds must be applied towards costs in pursuing education at a regionally-accredited college, university or technical school for 2008-09.

The scholarship application packet includes an information sheet specifying eligibility requirements, Privacy Act Statement, the scholarship application form, three forms for letters of recommendations, and an assessment sheet. Applications are assigned a number upon receipt so that anonymity is assured until selections are complete.

The applicant’s name, status, rank of the applicant’s sponsor and location of residence will remain unknown to members of the committee. Applications are due by May 15. To request a scholarship application, or for more information, contact Nicole Stickney at CIV 09826-655-656 or send an e-mail to nicolestickney@yahoo.com.

School immunizations

The Katterbach Clinic immunizations nurse will visit schools over the next few months to make sure all students are properly immunized. The nurse will visit: ■ Ansbach Middle/High School June 4 at 8:30 a.m. ■ Rainbow Elementary June 3 at 8:30 a.m. ■ Ansbach Elementary June 4 at 12:30 p.m. School nurses will send out immunization requirements and necessary paperwork to parents of students. For more information, call your child’s schools.

Schweinfurt Briefs

Unit challenge runs until July

Can your unit hang? The Army Family Team Building Unit Challenge has begun and you and your family can participate to bring your unit to victory. By taking AFTB classes, not only will you receive promotion points and gain knowledge, but it will also give points to your battalion for the competition. The challenge runs from April 7 to July 4, and the winner will be announced at the Fourth of July celebration. Soldiers, spouses, and children may participate. For more information, call Army Community Service at DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933 or e-mail jennifer.litchfield@eur.army.mil.

Enjoy free dinner and movie

Protestant Women of the Chapel invite the entire community to dinner and a movie at Ledward Chapel Friday. Dinner will begin serving at 5 p.m. and the movie starts at 7 p.m. Childcare is provided for free during the movie for children 4 years and under. The movie, “Facing the Giants” is appropriate for all ages. Soldiers, spouses, teens, local nationals, civilians, and all are welcome. An offering will be taken.

Attend leadership course

Need to know what it takes to be a leader? Attend Schweinfurt Army Community Service’s class, “Take the Lead on Leadership” in the Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room May 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or May 22 from 5 to 7

p.m. Learn different leadership styles, how to problem solve, how to manage group conflict as well as how to build cohesive teams. For more information, call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Orientation for parents-to-be

Army Community Service now offers a class every third Wednesday of each month to orientate parents-to-be about what to expect. Come to “OB Orientation” May 21 at Ledward’s ACS from 9 a.m. to noon. Topics of discussion include pregnancy, nutrition, community resources, birth registration process, delivering in a German hospital, and more! Mothers- and fathers-to-be are encouraged to attend this class. For more information, call DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Hike in vineyards

Outdoor Recreation offers a vineyard hike Sunday. Cost is \$10 and includes a guide and transportation. A stop at a local fish fest is planned. Bring euro for food and wine tasting. Transportation leaves from ODR on Conn at 10 a.m. and returns at 5 p.m. Call ODR to sign up at DSN 353-8080 or CIV 09721-96-8080.

Make crafts at the library

Join Ledward and Leighton libraries for a fun and crafts special for Mother’s Day tomorrow or to celebrate Asian-Pacific Heritage Month May 15. Activities are geared to children ages 2 to 5 and begin at 10 a.m. both days. For more information, call Ledward library at DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740 or Leighton library at DSN 350-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

Granger Smith concert

Enjoy live country music by pop star Granger Smith at Finney Fitness Center, Conn Barracks May 17. Concert is free of charge and begins at 7 p.m.

Make baskets or quilts

Join the Ledward Crafts Studio in basket-making or patchwork quilting. A basket-making class will be held at the studio May 21 starting at 6 p.m. All skill levels are welcome and materials are provided. A patchwork quilting class will begin on Tuesdays starting May 13. Class runs from 6 to 8 p.m. with six sessions costing \$35. For more information on these or other crafts call the studio at DSN 354-6903 or CIV 09721-96-6903.

See classic cars

Come see the ninth annual ADAC Sachs Franken Classic “Old Timer Rally” Friday and Saturday. Friday between 1

and 4 p.m., drivers will present their “old timer” vehicles in the Bad Kissingen’s pedestrian zone. Saturday from noon to 1:45 p.m., drivers will display their cars at the Schweinfurt Marktplatz before touring through downtown Schweinfurt on Obere Strasse, Bauerngasse, and Zehnstrasse.

Learn spouse survival skills

Come to Army Community Service’s class “Spouse Survival Skills” to learn coping skills, fun tricks, and build new friendships. Attend Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or May 19 from 5 to 7 p.m., both in the Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room. You may love being a military spouse, but sometimes your bag of tricks requires ... a little extra! For more information, call ACS at DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

Saturday respite care available

Sign-ups begin May 14 for Child and Youth Services’ Super Saturday Respite Care on June 14. Children ages 6 weeks to fifth-grade will be cared for from 9:30 to 2:30 p.m. School Age Services charges \$12 and the Child Development Center charges \$16. The program includes one meal. Children must be registered with CYS and also have current immunizations. Reservation deadline is one week prior to event. Call CYS central registration to sign up or for more information at DSN 354-6517 or CIV 09721-96-6414.

Socialize at the Lunch Bunch

Do you want to get out of the house, make a few new friends, and learn where good restaurants are around town? The Army Community Service monthly Lunch Bunch is the perfect fit. Join Wuerzburg’s next Lunch Bunch May 14 or Schweinfurt’s May 29, both from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Experience a little of the German culture with an English-speaking guide to help you translate the menu. Children are welcome! Bring euro for lunch. Sign up for the carpool or call to get directions to the restaurant at DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-96-6933.

AER needs you

The annual Army Emergency Relief fundraising drive is in full swing, and continues through May 15. AER is about Soldiers helping Soldiers, and annual contributions help insure that mission continues. Donations are accepted on a one-time basis or by recurring allotment. Soldiers may contact their unit AER representative, and anyone can contact Mike Sleeper at mike.sleeper@eur.army.mil, DSN 354-7033 or CIV 09721-96-7033 for more information or donation procedures.

CHECK OUT!

MWR Is...

Alternate Escapes Digital Lounge

Army Community Service

Arts & Crafts

Auto Skills Centers

Bavarian-American Magazine

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers

Bowling Centers

Child & Youth Services

Clubs and Lounges

Entertainment

Family Assistance Centers

Fitness Centers

Hotels

Hunting, Fishing & Shooting

Java Café

Libraries

Outdoor Recreation

Restaurants

Soldier and Family Assistance Centers

Special Events

Sports

Tax Relief

Trips

First Choice...FOR RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Looking for something to do this weekend? Need a place to *shop*, or hoping to find a quiet place to people *watch*? How about a unique *museum* that even the kids will find interesting? Look no further than

Bayreuth

Story and photos by Mary Markos
Bavarian News

Located less than 30 miles from Grafenwoehr, the city of Bayreuth offers culture, history, and a taste of home in a picturesque environment.

The capital of Upper Franconia, Bayreuth was made famous by composer and opera-great Richard Wagner.

Wagner lived in the city from 1872 until his death in 1883. With the help of King Ludwig II, Wagner built his Festspielhaus, or Festival Theatre, overlooking the city.

Atop Green Hill, the opera house, known for both its unique construction and acoustics, is considered one of the greatest opera houses in the world. The Bayreuth Festspielhaus serves as the exclusive venue for the annual festival which celebrates the Wagner operas.

If beautiful opera houses are on your agenda, don't miss the Margravial Opera House located close to the city center. This amazing Baroque theater has been preserved through the years and is adorned with gorgeous paintings and an extraordinary atmosphere.

Built between 1745 and 1748, the opera house remains original to its construction and visitors will be surprised by its breathtaking splendor.

With a seating capacity of only 510, the Old Opera House, as it is often called, was what drew Wagner to the city. It was at Margravial that he conducted Beethoven's 9th symphony for his 59th birthday.

Opera, however, is not the only thing visitors can discover in this famous Bavarian city. Families can stroll through the quaint streets on their way to the market square where the morning brings fresh fruits, vegetables, cheeses, and meats to be sold.

Cafes and coffee shops offer a moment of peace amidst the foot traffic that increases during the many festivals. Children and shoppers will be pleased to find stationary climbing equipment and toys along the pedestrian walkways, offering a burst of excitement for young ones while their parents peruse the windows and selections of nearby retailers.

If shopping is a must, visitors of the city will find an American-style mall located a short walk from the train station.

This shopper's paradise offers all the luxuries known in suburban cities back home under one roof. The atmosphere of this buyer's mecca draws friends to socialize around one of the many fountains with a tasty treat.

If relaxation is desired, visitors can head to the

Lohengrin thermal spa, which boasts nationally renowned healing waters. The spa offers a variety of massage and bath options as well as an impressive sauna and stone bath that will leave guests prepared to discover the rest of the city.

Golf enthusiasts will delight at the championship golf course located close to the spa.

If traveling with children, the city boasts two indoor, and one outdoor swimming pool.

Take the kids to discover the past at the dinosaur museum located in the city center. This three-story prehistoric paradise holds fossils, sculptures, and life-size creatures that will ignite the imagination.

One unique aspect of the museum is found in the mirrored atom room, which gives visitors a one-of-a-kind look at the area around them. Visitors know they are in the right neighborhood when they spot a life-size Apatosaurus standing on its hind legs.

This charming university city also offers sites such as the Sanspareil Rock Garden and Zwernitz Castle, as well as botanical gardens and fascinating palaces. With water fountains dotting the city landscape, the list of attractions is endless.

To discover more of Bayreuth, visit http://www.bayreuth.de/english/tourist_information_357.html.

Discover the Festivals

Wagner Festival Bayreuth

■ July 25 - Aug. 28, 2008

Musica Bayreuth

■ May 2 – 8, 2008

Fun Fair Bayreuth

■ May 9 – 19, 2008

Franconian Festival Week

■ May/June 2008

Bayreuth Piano Festival

■ July 2008

City Street Festival

■ July 4 – 6, 2008

Summernight's Festival

■ July/August 2008

International Youth Festival

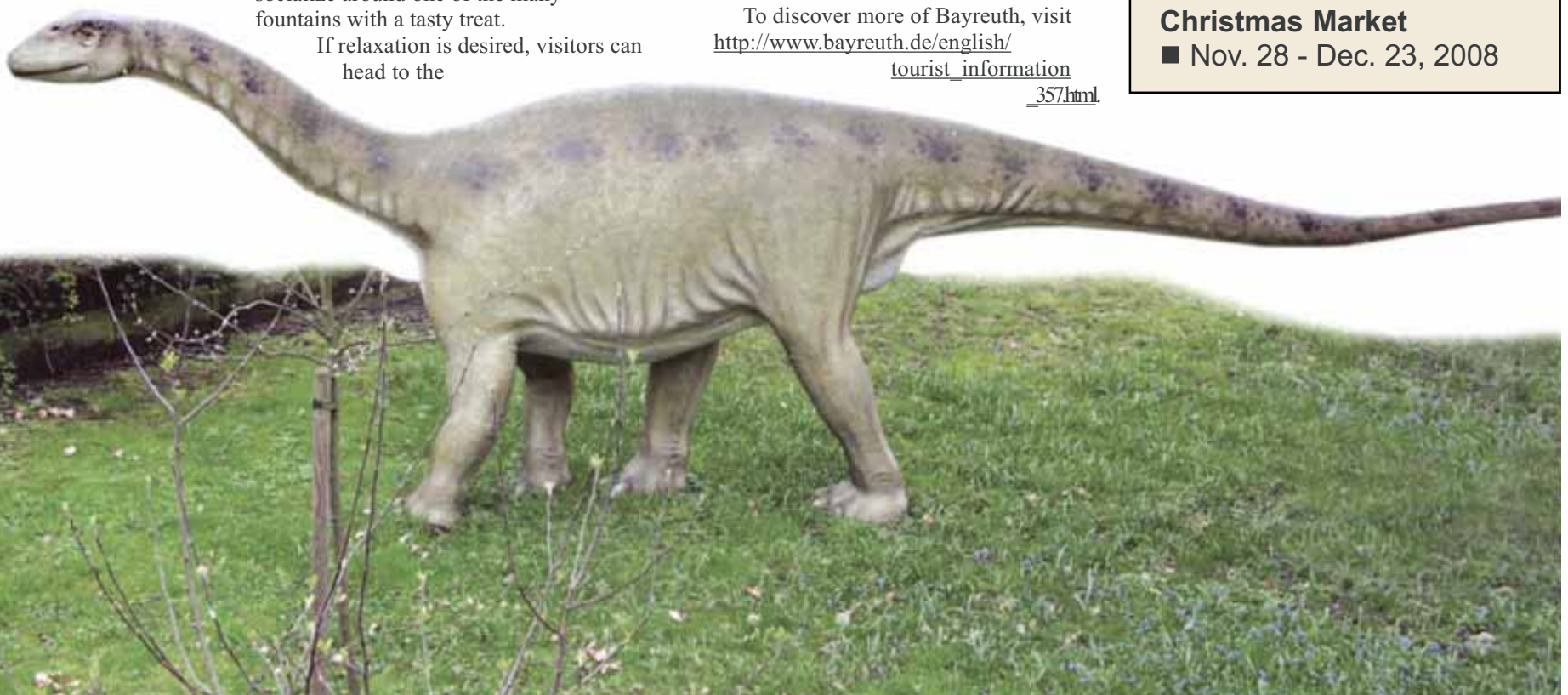
■ Aug. 3 – 30, 2008

Bayreuther Barock

■ September 2008

Christmas Market

■ Nov. 28 - Dec. 23, 2008



Falcons JROTC no ordinary group, nab top honors at drill competition

Story and photo by
MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

The Vilseck High School gym was quiet April 19 as members of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps drill team prepared for inspection.

The silence broke as cadets twirled their rifles and marched in unison. Students zigzagged across the gym floor with the precision and skill of military members much their senior. "Hooah" echoed through the room as the 13 cadets completed their mission.

The event, part of the drill team's first competition of the year, left the Falcon battalion with top honors in the squad regulation drill, platoon regulation drill, and color guard categories, beating out Vicenza, Hohenfels, and Bamberg.

Winning streak

Senior Cadet Chris Vertz captured a personal win in the individual exhibition drill category, and sophomore cadets Toni Anderson and John Lee took second and third place, respectively, in the individual regulation event. The all-female exhibition team also earned a second place finish.

The cadets continued their wins the following weekend in Bamberg when they took three of six first place finishes, falling second to Vicenza in the squad regulation and platoon regulation drill.

Sgt. 1st Class Ray Zumwalt, an active duty service member who has coached the cadets this year, was happy with the presentation.

"I was very pleased with their performance," he said. "As far as how we fell out with a lot of first places, second, and third place finishes, I was extremely pleased. I talked to some of the competitors from ... other school and they were all just like, wow, Vilseck has made some leaps and bounds, just from last year to this year. That is kudos to the cadets. They have worked really hard since we started practice."

Motivation to improve

Anderson saw the wins as motivation to improve.

"We did amazing in our first (competition), but that doesn't mean



1st Sgt. Jose Rivera, NCO Academy, inspects members of the Vilseck High School JROTC during a drill team competition held April 19 in Vilseck.

we're going to start slacking," she said. "We're actually going to work a lot harder, practice a lot more to be better each time to show that we can do it, and that we don't stand underneath anybody."

Upcoming competition

The team has a final competition this weekend in Hohenfels. It is also their last opportunity to acquire points before the European championships May 17.

Zumwalt said the cadets are preparing for Europeans by focusing on the little things.

"We're working on the secondary movements and the angles... all the little things now, so hopefully, when we get to Europeans, we'll be a really tight, well oiled machine," he stated.

Anderson competed in Europeans with the team last year and is looking forward to bringing home the squad and platoon trophies.

"I think we have a really good

chance this year for Europeans. I think we're actually going to place pretty high, not like last time. In our conference, we got platoon and squad first place, so I think we're going to get at least third, if not second. I'm hoping first," she said.

Having a successful and accomplished drill team, however, is not the primary mission of JROTC.

"The mission is to motivate young people to be better citizens," Zumwalt explained. "We teach them citizenship and how to be a good person in today's society."

Knowledge and experience

Senior Army Instructor Maj. (Ret.) Michael Farley views the class, which he has taught for over a decade, as a way for students to gain both knowledge and hands-on experience.

"JROTC teaches life skills... we do theory and application," he said. "When we're in the classroom, we're talking about leadership theory,

leadership traits, leadership styles, and different forms of leadership, ... but that doesn't get you any leadership experience.

Becoming a leader

"You have to go out and actually exercise leadership to gain leadership experience, and that is the difference between this program and pretty much any other program. We provide leadership training in the classroom and we provide leadership experience through a myriad of activities," he said.

JROTC activities include opportunities for cadets to acquire up to nine college-level credits over the course of their high school career.

College credit, however, is not the sole motivating factor for participants. The greatest misconception, Farley said, is that the class of 134 students is a stepping-stone for entrance into the armed services.

"(People think) that we're

recruiters and we're trying to get kids to go into the Army," he said. "We don't advocate for that, we advocate for college. We consider this to be a college preparatory program and our goal is for students to graduate and to go to college."

Seventy-five percent of the students, according to Farley, will take the skills they have learned in the class and continue their education.

Students use their skills to volunteer in a variety of activities throughout the school year.

"The battalion commander, at the beginning of the school year, sets a goal ... of volunteer hours (for the cadets)," Zumwalt explained. "The goal this year was set at 5,000, we're at about 4,000 now. Every Saturday and or Sunday, there is something. The key is ... it has to be something that either helps the school or the community."

Giving back

Helping the community has helped four cadets earn the presidential voluntarily service award for committing 100 hours to volunteer work in a year.

"That's just as of right now," said Farley. "We still have the rest of the school year to go for some other kids that are getting close. The voluntary service component is stronger in this program probably than 90 percent of the programs. That is very unique. We've made it a priority."

What is also unique, according to Anderson, is that JROTC can truly change a student's life.

"I'm not the most confident person," she said. "I saw how JROTC builds you up and helps you become a better person, and I thought it would help me bring out my full potential. I'm slowly building my confidence up."

Whatever you want to be

"(The class) opens your mind to different things and shows you how the world could actually be," she continued. "It shows you what you can achieve in the world. It gives you different options. (The instructors) show you that you can be whatever you want to be."

Farley admits, "It's not your typical class."

Art donation a monument to prisoners of war

Story and photo by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**
Bavarian News

Even though we will never meet him and cannot communicate with him, from just a thousand-year-old stone etching depicting a bison on a cave wall, we can gain some knowledge about how the artist saw his world.

Art allows anyone, no matter how separated he may be from the artist in time, culture, or language to, for however brief a moment, view a time and a place and a state of mind different from his own.

In the case of history, being able to see into a different place or time can provide insight into events that cannot, and should not, be forgotten.

As "The Greatest Generation" begins to dwindle, the World War II era becomes more a part of history, making any links to that time increasingly invaluable.

During the war, German artist Rudolf Menge spent the time he was in an American prisoner of war camp sketching the people and scenes around him. Helmut Schön, Menge's nephew, has recently donated the sketches to the U.S. Army.

"Margarete (Menge's wife and Schön's aunt) always said he had a lot of respect for the American personnel in the POW camp, and therefore I would like to give them to veterans of the U.S. Army," Schön said.

The collection contains more than 30 pencil sketches, most in black and white, showcasing life in the American POW camp in Ludwigsburg, near Stuttgart, Germany. At least half are detailed, insightful portraits of his fellow prisoners. Others are scenes of life in the barracks and around the camp. Some include dates and names; all are mesmerizing not only for their artistic quality, but for their historical

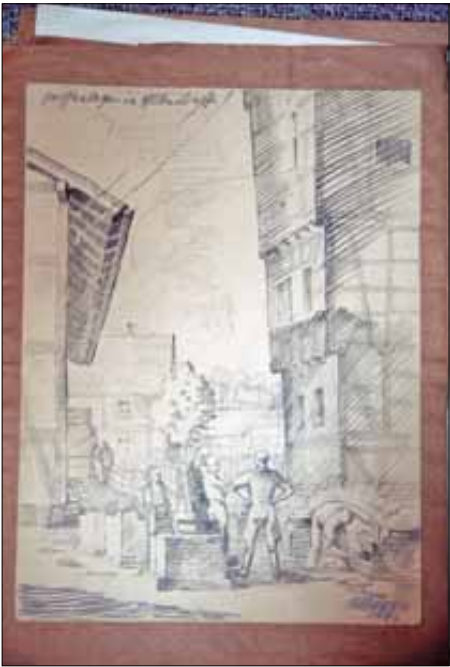
significance.

"Mr. Schön wanted U.S. Soldiers and veterans to be able to see these, so he thought it was best to give them to the history people," said U.S. Army Europe Staff Curator Gabriele Torony. "The best place to display them would be in a military history museum, but since we don't have one in USAREUR right now, they will be displayed as soon as we can find an appropriate place."

Born in 1908 in Naunhof, Menge studied at the Academy for Graphical Art in Leipzig, Germany, completing his art degree in 1929. By the time he was drafted into the German army, where he achieved the rank of sergeant, he was working as a freelance graphical artist.

Schön says it was during his time in the camp that Menge really began to paint and sketch. Schön and Menge met only once, around 1943 or 1944, though Menge corresponded frequently with Schön's family. Menge and Schön's father were good friends.

Through correspondence with Menge, "it was obvious I was talking to an intelligent, technically interested man," Schön said.



During World War II, late German artist Rudolf Menge completed many sketches during his time in an American POW camp. His nephew recently donated the sketches to the U.S. Army.

After the war Menge married Margarete, Schön's aunt. His career expanded to include a teaching assignment at the technical school for painting at Mosbach.

He was the head of the art union of Rappennau, a member of the Academia Italia delle Arti e dell Lavoro, and he received an appointment at Accademico d'Italia with gold medal.

His work has been exhibited at Chateau Thierry, Flehingen, Bretten and Bad Rappennau.

After his death in 1976, Margarete eventually moved into a retirement home and passed the majority of Menge's works, with a few exceptions, to Schön, who now has more than 250 of Menge's paintings and sketches at his home in Pfaffenhofen. Large, vibrant pieces pack the walls in every room including everything from landscapes to abstract works to allegorical scenes from ancient mythology.

In September 2007, Schön suffered a stroke and spent five weeks in the hospital for treatment and rehabilitation.

"At this point I realized how fast my life could come to an end, and I don't want to have

too much unfinished business. Part of that was to take care of the work of my uncle," Schön said.

He approached museums and galleries, stressing his goal to make Menge's work available to the public; financial gain was not important.

During this time he said he found additional pieces he had not seen before, including the POW camp sketches. He said he then decided to give them to the U.S. military, but since he could not transport them to the United States himself, began looking for a point of contact in Germany.

Through the U.S. Consulate in Munich, he contacted the U.S. Forces Liaison Office, who directed him to Torony and the USAREUR military history office in Heidelberg.

Schön had framed a number of the sketches himself, though most remained loose when he officially handed them over to Torony April 16.

Torony said all the pieces will be properly preserved and eventually displayed so future generations of military service members can view them as Schön intended. Three sketches will be hung in United States Army Garrison Hohenfels headquarters.

Though we know more about Rudolf Menge than the ancient bison artist, he too is among the ranks of those who, for millennia, have recorded their personal history through art.

That personal history, also a part of our collective military, American, and human history, will forever be recorded tangibly for future generations to discover because one man decided to pick up a pencil and sketch what he saw.

Maybe that sketch will help someone, though they will never meet or speak with Menge, for however brief a moment, to see what he saw.



At her last weigh-in, Flocke clocked in at approximately 44 pounds, putting on more than 30 pounds in two months.

Photo by Dr. Helmut Mägdefrau

Newest addition to Nuremberg Zoo wins hearts



Flocke explores her enclosure and all the exciting things that are waiting for her there. Already a true media pro at the age of only 3 and a half months, she knows how to pose for the camera.

by **SUSANNE BARTSCH**
USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs

When polar bear Flocke (short for “Schneeflocke” - Snow Flake) was born on December 11, 2007, all seemed well in the Nuernberg Zoo’s polar bear enclosure. Mother bear Vera tended to her baby in the cave where she had been born.

January 11, however, things took a dramatic change. For unknown reasons, Vera brought the baby out of the cave, carried it around the enclosure and kept dropping it. The zoo’s leadership decided to take the baby bear away from her mother to save her life.

From then on, Flocke was cared for and raised around the clock by the zoo’s experienced polar bear keepers: Petra Fritz, Harald Hager, Stefanie Krüger, and Horst Maussner.

Every day public interest in the little bear grew stronger.

Just a year earlier, in December 2006, polar bear Knut had been born in Berlin’s zoo and gained worldwide notoriety for being raised by his keeper Thomas Dörfflein after his mother had abandoned him.

Unlike Knut, Flocke was kept away from the public eye and allowed to develop her skills in private.

With a weight of 6.2 kilograms at the age of two months, the little toddler bear was getting more and more active, playing with her toys, kicking, and hitting.

March 17, Flocke learned to swim in a small training pool. Although polar bears instinctively know how to swim, her keepers decided to have her take her first strokes in the training pool where her feet could still reach the ground.

Every day, as Flocke became more comfortable with this new environment, they added more



Flocke and her mother, Vera, look at each other through the glass separating their enclosures.

Photo by Ralf Schedlbauer

water. She was allowed to take her first steps outside and experienced a walk on the grass.

April 8, now weighing almost 20 kilograms, Flocke was presented to the public. More than 400 journalists from around the world came to the zoo to see her and Flocke did a superb job entertaining them.

You will find all the necessary information in the box below if you would like to plan a visit to the zoo.

Tips for visiting Flocke

You may visit Flocke daily in the Nuremberg Zoo’s Aqua Park from 9 to 11 a.m., 1 to 2:30 p.m., and from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

However, there is no guarantee that Flocke will be in her enclosure. If the little bear decides to take a nap or does not want to come out of her stable, her handlers will not wake her up or force her to go outside. You may have to be patient and wait a little while.

But according to the zoo, Flocke likes to come outside to play with her handlers, climb around in her enclosure, swim in the large pool, or take a shower in the waterfall.

The zoo has put up bleachers in front of the enclosure for visitors to sit on and watch Flocke.

The zoo offers two family tickets. Ticket 1 covers both parents and their children up to the age of 17 and costs 18 Euro, ticket 2 covers one parent and his or her children up to the age of 17 and costs 10.50 Euro. Single tickets for adults are 7.50 Euro and single tickets for children ages 4-13 are 3.70 Euro. Students, retirees, and handicapped visitors with the appropriate documentation pay 6 Euro per ticket.

The Nuremberg Zoo has an English Web page with all the basic info you need to visit the zoo. Just go to www.tiergarten.nuernberg.de and click on the English flag on top of the page.

Rec kits score big with deployed Soldiers

by JIM HUGHES
USAG Ansbach CI Chief

Even though most of the Ansbach community’s Soldiers are deployed, it doesn’t mean that Morale, Welfare and Recreation is taking a breather in supporting them.

U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach MWR sent 18 recreation kits containing numerous games, various sports balls, a complete flag football set, everything needed for a volleyball game, and more crammed into 150-quart coolers to each unit deployed with the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, said Casey Malloy, recreation chief for MWR.

“We recognized the need and this was something we knew would make an impact—our little piece of saying, ‘We’re here supporting you whether you’re in Ansbach, Taji, Balad, or wherever you are,’” he said.

The message and recreation kits were received April 15—and just in time for softball, said Capt. Clinton Woody, deployed member of 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment.

“This is great,” he said as the distinctive ping of an aluminum bat smacking a softball provided emphasis to his response during an audio interview conducted by 12th CAB Public Affairs Officer Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton. “It just got here and we’re already using it. We’ve played a couple of volleyball games at battalion-organized events and the Soldiers absolutely love it—it’s a great stress reliever.”

One Soldier who loves it is Spc. Jason Michael Curtis of the 12th CAB Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

“It’s great to have our own stuff to use—awesome,” the Baldwin, Mich., native said. “We appreciate anything we can get while we’re over here. And it’s no surprise what MWR did this for us. We’ve always had great people supporting us everywhere we go—whether it’s

Hohenfels, Graf, here, or at home. Everyone’s really excited about this stuff.”

And the stuff is for the unit to keep. Malloy said the unit is now signed for it, so Soldiers can pack it up when their deployment is done and take it with them—for use on future deployments, field training, or even around the home garrison.

Malloy added that MWR doesn’t plan to stop with the recreation kits.

“This is something we want to expand on—it’s not a case where we do this and then they never hear from us again,” he said. “We’re looking at the different things that are out there—including video kits—and trying to find out what the Soldiers want. We need feedback from them.”

He said he also wants feedback from the community on how MWR can better meet people’s recreational needs. He said people can do this by talking to program directors at MWR facilities or using the Interactive Customer Evaluation system available through the garrison’s Web site at <http://www.ansbach.army.mil> and clicking on the ICE logo.

Feedback from downrange is already filtering in, courtesy of Curtis.

“Keep sending cool stuff like bats and balls—maybe some gloves as lots of the guys playing don’t have them. But, if not, that’s all right—we love what you sent,” he said. “I just want to thank everyone who’s supporting us back in the rear—we’ll see you guys when we get back there.”

Woody echoed Curtis’ appreciation.

“It shows they’re thinking about us every day and that they care,” he said. “This is probably the best show of their gratitude for what we’re doing over here. The Soldiers are using MWR more, it keeps our minds occupied and helps keep the stress levels down. It’s perfect.”



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton

Capt. Clinton Woody, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, swings one of the bats in the kits. MWR bought and sent 20 boxes filled with recreational equipment and games to all the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade units from Ansbach currently stationed in Iraq.

Ansbach looks to break record with largest yellow ribbon

by RONALD H. TOLAND JR.
Bavarian News

The Ansbach military community is looking to beat a few good men with about a thousand great Soldiers, family members, and civilians May 14 when it shoots to set the record for the largest yellow ribbon formation.

Also featuring a concert by country and western performer Granger Smith, maximum community participation is required to make the record-breaking attempt a success, said Casey Malloy, Morale, Welfare and Recreation’s recreation division chief.

“This the community’s idea and we need over 800 participants to break the record,” he said. “We would like over 1,000, but we want and need as many as we can get.”

The order of the day is for the first 1,000 people to receive free yellow T-shirts and then get together in a ribbon formation—and hope for good weather—to break the armed forces record set by the Marines at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in California in October 2005.

Ansbach’s record-setting attempt kicks off at 5 p.m. at the Storck Barracks airfield in front of Bldg. 6502.

Originally, Jenny Sullivan, MWR’s special events coordinator, wanted to go for a Guinness World

Record, but after some research, it was found Guinness had a separate category and a record that was tough to beat.

The largest human awareness ribbon for an event was organized by AIDS-Hilfe Frankfurt e.V. in Frankfurt June 29, 2007, with 3,640 participants, according to Amanda Sprague, Records Management Team, at Guinness World Records Limited in the United Kingdom.

So, the official unofficial armed forces record is being sought—with Ansbach looking to take over Top Gun status.

But this is about more than records, said Veronica Martin, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade family readiness support assistant.

“This is a chance for the community to come together and say to our deployed spouses, ‘We are thinking about you guys, we love you, and we want you to be safe,’” she said. “This is the big ‘Welcome Home and be safe symbol’ and represents us showing, as a community, our support of our loved ones downrange.”

And whether the record is achieved or not, it’s a win-win situation, said Victoria Hanrahan, MWR entertainment director.

“It’s a real morale booster for the community, our families, and rear detachment Soldiers here—and also our Soldiers downrange,” said

Hanrahan. “It’s open to all U.S. ID card holders.”

Malloy noted that in order to increase participation, the event is being marketed to all military communities in Germany, and MWR will take all comers who want to help break the record and honor the community’s deployed Soldiers.

To sign up and register to reserve a shirt, e-mail your name and T-shirt size (adult and youth sizes available) to ansbachyellowribbon@eur.army.mil.

And if being in the record books isn’t enough to peak people’s interest, Sullivan added that music, activities for children and families, and food and drink will be on tap as well.

“A free country concert, pizza, kebobs, grilled chicken, candy, beverages, and activities will be available beginning at 5 p.m.,” she said. “Concessions will close for participants to form up at 5:45 p.m., and will reopen afterwards at 6:30 p.m., along with the music of Granger Smith.”

Malloy said this event is small compared to Soldiers’ and family’s service and sacrifices.

“There is nothing we can do back here that amounts to the sacrifices and service that our guys downrange do daily,” he said.

“In our busy lives, we, as a community, do not get a chance to come together as often to socialize and

fellowship. This shows our Soldiers down there that we are still together as a family back home—gives them a good feeling and helps them continue to do their jobs.”

Malloy said that the timing of the event could not be better.

“It’s coming at the right time too—over the half-way mark of the deployment and the light is at the end of the tunnel,” he said.

Erin Binkley, whose husband has been deployed since June, is psyched about the event.

“We are keeping the home fires burning,” said Binkley, who plans to attend.

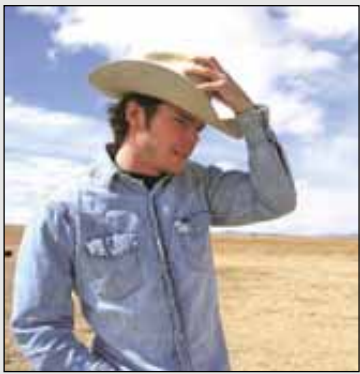
“I think the more we do at home to show the Soldiers we care and we are thinking about them, the better. Plus, I look great in yellow!”

To encourage maximum participation, Lt. Col. Tammy S. McKenna, U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach commander, has authorized the early closure of most garrison facilities.

“Garrison operations, except the child development centers, will close at 4 p.m. to support the event,” she said in a meeting on the event.

In addition, Malloy said all MWR operations will close at 1 p.m. to support the event.

For more on the event, call Hanrahan at DSN 468-7636 or CIV 0981-183-636.



Granger Smith hails from Dallas, Texas, and Texas A&M University. Granger fell in love with country music early on. By age 14, he was balancing football, playing the guitar, and singing cover songs on a regular Texas Opry circuit following graduation from high school.

During his freshman year at Texas A&M, he completed his first album with ten original tunes. Granger’s music has a flair that traditionalists flock to—its simple sophistication makes it appealing to the masses as well.

Elementary school students go on Earth Day forest excursion

Story and photo by
RONALD H. TOLAND JR.
Bavarian News

To coincide with worldwide Earth Day events, 85 fifth-grade students from U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach elementary schools ventured out April 22 to the forest “Feuchtlach Ansbach” for the bi-annual forest excursion trip hosted by the city’s forest rangers and the garrison’s environmental management division.

Jutta Seefried, the garrison’s Separate or Recycle Trash coordinator who coordinates the trip, said this is a time for students to get out and learn a little bit more about nature.

“This rouses interest, in a fun way, about the forest—they get information about animals and plants, and hopefully better recognize the importance of forest cultivation, along with getting out and experiencing nature,” she said. “It makes the children more aware of the



environment and how to take care of it.

“Kids today do not get out in the woods as often as they should to be mindful of nature and why we need to save the environment.” Seefried said. “I think they also get more of an appreciation for the forester’s job.”

Ansbach and Illesheim elementary school students were treated to an excursion in a nearby forest as part of Earth Day April 22.

Kathleen Erickson, fifth-grade teacher at Rainbow Elementary, mirrored those thoughts.

“It is important for kids to know about nature and all of its aspects—this aids as a reminder to them that we share the Earth and that nature is the greatest gift,” she said. “Besides, Germany

is great for nature walks and such.”

The students played games where they felt tree bark, examined the forest terrain, and took part in an interactive “squirrel game” where they hid peanuts and then tried to find them again.

Fredrich Luger, head of Forest and Agriculture for the City of Ansbach, who has been conducting such tours for about 20 years, said fifth-graders are a prime target for environmental information.

“Children absorb so much at this emotional age,” he said. “We want to help them learn about forestry and to gain an environmental knowledgebase they can put to use now and in the future.”

Chandler Lowrey, fifth-grader at Rainbow Elementary, got the message.

“Through education, we can help each other learn to keep the environment safe—protect it and not destroy it. We need to keep it the way we found it,” he said.

WHY I SERVE

Teacher joins Army, becomes U.S. citizen

Story and photo by Sgt. BRANDON LITTLE
Task Force XII PAO

More than 10 years ago, Staff Sgt. Maranata Temese was an elementary school teacher living in American Samoa with his wife, Leaiseiga, and their three children.

Wanting to provide a better life for his family, he decided to join the military, but there was one problem: he was not a U.S. citizen.

American Samoa is a U.S. territory and its natives have the same U.S. rights and privileges as natives of Guam and Puerto Rico. Temese, however, was born in the independent country of Samoa, but his wife and children were born in American Samoa.

“When I walked into the recruiting office to ask if I could join the Army, I even told them my wife was a U.S. citizen,” said Temese, a platoon sergeant in Company G, Task Force XII. “The recruiter, knowing that I was from Samoa, told me I could not join the Army—it was because of (biased views) held by some people born in American Samoa against people born in Samoa.”

Temese’s desire to provide a better life for his family through service in the military was now fueled by a determination to prove his recruiter wrong, he said. His next step was to write a letter to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to find out what he needed to do to join the Army.

“The USCIS wrote me back and told me the process I needed to follow (to get a Visa) since I was married to a U.S. citizen,” he said. “After I filled out all the paperwork, and they accepted my application, I received a quota number and I was then able to move to the U.S. and live.”

Instead of moving to the United States, though, Temese took his paperwork and went back to that same recruiting station to see the



Staff Sgt. Maranata Temese, a platoon sergeant in Company G, Task Force XII, patiently waits to receive his Certificate of Naturalization during a Multi-National Corps–Iraq Naturalization Ceremony held on Camp Victory April 12. Temese, who was born in Samoa, has been trying to become a U.S. citizen since 2003.

recruiter who told him he couldn’t join the Army.

“Now that I had a Visa, they wanted to help me,” said Temese. “After the recruiter made a few phone calls, he said, ‘You can join the military,’ and I told him I’d be more than happy to join.”

He enlisted as a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic and deployed a few years later in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. By then, his family had grown from three children to six

children. He had provided a better life for his family, but he was still not a U.S. citizen.

“Every time we went to the airport, I got stopped because of my island passport,” he said. “My wife got tired of waiting with the kids while I got checked and she finally said, ‘This has got to stop—you need to get your citizenship and a U.S. passport.’”

To make this happen, Temese contacted the

Immigration and Nationalization Services, but they told him he needed to travel to New York to process his request.

This was a difficult task considering he had just begun his second deployment, so he decided to talk to his chain of command and Task Force XII’s top enlisted Soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. H. Lee Kennedy, to get help.

“While I was in Kuwait, waiting to enter Iraq, I saw (Kennedy) and explained my situation to him,” he said. “As soon as I asked for his help, he took out a piece of paper and pen and promised he would help make this happen for me—he was really on top of things.”

With a little persistence and a lot of help from Soldiers working in the Task Force XII legal office, Kennedy kept him promise. Temese was one of several Soldiers in Task Force XII to become a citizen during a Multi-National Corps–Iraq Naturalization Ceremony held on Camp Victory April 12.

“Temese is a very special Soldier, and it was a real privilege to watch him walk across that stage and become a U.S. citizen,” said Kennedy.

Although his journey to citizenship may have taken a little longer than expected, Temese said his original goal of providing a better life for his family happened without delay and he tries to help others do the same.

“Every time I go back to my island, I go to the school I used to teach in and tell the children some of the things the Army has done for me,” he said.

“I think they appreciate the information I give them and some of them are actually joining the military. I know that by serving in the Army I am helping my country of Samoa be a better place because the United States always tries to fight for little people who get overlooked—just like my tiny island.”

Troops become U.S. citizens during naturalization ceremony

by Sgt. BRANDON LITTLE
Task Force XII PAO

The dream of becoming a U.S. citizen finally became a reality for 18 members of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade after a Multi-National Corps–Iraq naturalization ceremony held at Camp Victory April 12.

The ceremony was conducted in the lavish Al-Faw Palace where 259 service members from all branches of the military officially became U.S. citizens.

“I can’t think of a better use of the Al-Faw Palace than to naturalize fellow servicemen and women fighting in support of the United States of America,” said Lt. Gen. Lloyd Austin III, the commander of MNC-I. “Saddam Hussein built this palace to

celebrate his victory over Iran in regaining the Faw Peninsula. Today, we use it to celebrate our brothers and sisters gaining their citizenship.”

The Oath of Citizenship was administered to the service members, who came from 71 different countries, by John Lafferty, the director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

After the oath was administered, each of the newly naturalized service members received a Certificate of Naturalization.

Thanks to all the hard work and effort put forth by the USCIS team, the event marked the largest naturalization ceremony ever held outside the United States, said Austin.

Staff Sgt. Maranata Temese, who was born in Western Samoa, was one of the Task Force XII Soldiers who became a citizen during the ceremony.

“It was a great honor for me to receive my citizenship during this deployment,” said Temese, a platoon sergeant in Company G, Task Force XII, Multi-National Division–Baghdad.

“The feeling you get when they call your name, and you become a citizen, just makes everything we’re doing (here in Iraq) worth fighting for—especially when you turn around and look at the faces of your fellow (service members) standing there to support you.”

Soldiers who desire to become citizens during their deployment need to begin the process at their unit legal offices as soon as possible, said Sgt. Aaron Simeraro, a paralegal specialist in Task Force XII.

Before the ceremony concluded, the new U.S. citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance and

listened to a message from President George Bush.

“For all of you, the Oath of Citizenship is more than a formality. Today, America is more than your home—it’s your country,” said Bush. “This is one of the things that makes our country so unique—with a single oath, all at once, you become as fully American as the most direct descendant of a founding father.”

Here are the names of 12th CAB Soldiers who were naturalized during the ceremony: Eric Estrada-Escobar, Nicholas Malone, Delbosque Moreno, Junior Joseph, Anthony Pun, Marc Dornbach, Desmond Elmes, Karma Savage, Sotith Sim, Jorge Garcia, Erylin Serra-Ward, Flavius Mezin, Helton Ngirdimau, Sergot Fils-Aime, Sialei Tapusini, Maria Gonzalez-Frutos, Edgardo Ubaldo, and Maranata Temese.

Senior enlisted leaders help shoulder burden on crew chiefs, door gunners

Story and photo by Sgt. BRANDON LITTLE
Task Force XII PAO

“Be, Know, Do,” has been a part of the Army leadership doctrine for more than a decade and many leaders have interpreted it in many different ways.

For two of Task Force XII’s most senior NCOs, this leadership mantra takes them miles away from the safety of their offices and into a more mobile work station.

It’s an alternate work environment that puts them in some potentially dangerous situations. But still, as they say, the view here is a whole lot cooler than any corner office on Camp Taji.

Task Force XII’s Command Sgt. Maj. H. Lee Kennedy, along with Task Force Storm’s Command Sgt. Maj. Chad Cuomo, help shoulder the workload of UH-60 Black Hawk crew members by serving as crew chiefs and door gunners on missions each week.

The task force’s senior officers, all of its pilots, are called on to take to the skies regularly. The same is true for the senior enlisted leaders as well, who also don their flight gear and mount up for missions.

Flying a helicopter as a pilot rarely means washing windows or loading a passenger’s bags for them. The door gunners, however, regardless of their rank, have to be ready for any mission.

“I believe, as a leader, that I should lead from the front and that I should not ask my Soldiers to do something that I wouldn’t do myself,” said Cuomo, a native of Troy, N.Y. “If we were doing ground convoys, I’d be in those too. There should be no difference in going outside of the

wire. Whether it’s flying or driving, the leader should lead from the front.”

Their Soldiers appreciate their efforts and their “can-do” attitudes.

“I think it’s great that they get out here and help us with the mission,” said Sgt. Ian McDougal, a crew chief in Company A, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment. “Seeing higher-ranking Soldiers doing the same job as us really means a lot to the younger Soldiers.”

Both Cuomo and Kennedy are crew chiefs by profession. Combined, the two leaders have more than 50 years of Army aviation experience.

“When a young 19- or 20-year-old Soldier sees a 50-year-old sergeant major wandering around, they say ‘that old man doesn’t know anything about the Army today...what he knew 20 or 30 years ago is obsolete,’ but it’s not,” said Kennedy, a native of Abingdon, Va. “We still use those same tactics and procedures from back then because all those things are standard.”

And like their officer counterparts, the command sergeants major don’t just fly once in a while to get flight-pay, Kennedy and Cuomo are incorporated into the flight schedule and act as replacements when an additional crew chief or door gunner is needed for a mission.

“If a Soldier gets medically grounded or can’t fly for whatever reason, they come to (us) to fill in for them—we do that on a regular basis,” said Cuomo. “I normally try to fly at least once a week, depending on my meetings and work schedule, but I try to fly as much as time permits.”

Even though he outranks all the crew chiefs and door gunners he works with, Kennedy said he doesn’t expect to be treated any differently

when it comes to the mission.

“(As leaders), we should follow the standard harder and set the example truer,” he said. “If I’m cut some slack on any section or piece of that mission, then the other Soldiers should be cut slack too. I must follow exactly what my Soldiers are tasked to do—to the letter.”

“When you’re part of an aircrew,” added Cuomo, “you all have the same level of responsibility. If one member of the crew starts to slack, it puts everyone’s life at risk.”

The Soldiers also respect it when their leaders get out there and know how to follow the rules while flying and can conduct up-to-date aircraft maintenance, said Kennedy.

“No matter what the rank of the person seated across from me on the aircraft, I’m confident in their abilities to perform their duties because we all train to the same standard,” said McDougal, a native of Eugene, Ore.

Being such a “seasoned aviator” has its advantages and disadvantages, said Kennedy.

“I guess rumor has it that since I’m 51, I’m a little slower getting in and out of the window,” he said. “That may be true; but as far as (scanning my sector) and getting out there doing preflight checks and maintenance, I’m right up there with the 19 year-olds.”

Even though their “Be, Know, Do,” leadership technique may take a little more effort than it used to, Kennedy and Cuomo said they hope to motivate Soldiers by helping shoulder the workload and letting them know the standards must be kept—regardless of the Soldier’s rank.

“I can perform at the same skill level as any other door gunner, and I think that it’s sometimes



Command Sgt. Maj. Chad Cuomo, Task Force Storm’s senior enlisted leader, inspects his flight gear before heading out on a mission.

second nature to me because I’ve been doing it so long,” said Cuomo. “I hope that (my flying) shows the Soldiers that I care and I’m willing to do the same things they’re doing. I think they should be extremely proud of everything we’ve accomplished here in Iraq.”

Nunez, Taylor awarded Silver Stars

Story and photo by
KIMBERLYGEARHART
Bavarian News

Staff Sgt. Octavio Nunez will tell you that he didn't do "anything special." Spc. Jarrod Taylor will insist others deserve the recognition.

The crowd gathered at the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry memorials on Ledward Barracks April 22, and the new Silver Star medals pinned to both Soldiers' chests tell another story.

Taylor and Nunez, both members of what is now the 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, were awarded the military's third highest award for valor, the Silver Star, for what the award citations describe as "incredible acts of gallantry" during a complex attack on their combat patrol May 14, 2007 in the Adhamiyah neighborhood of northeast Baghdad, Iraq.

A combat patrol

The patrol started like any other, with a convoy of trucks covering ground in Adhamiyah, one of the most volatile areas in Baghdad. Nunez recalled that they had already encountered one improvised explosive device, but as they'd not suffered much damage, the patrol continued mission.

"We were always receiving contact," Taylor noted.

The second IED would change, and end, lives.

Nunez, in the first truck, asked his gunner to scan the area to see if anyone was hit. The gunner reported that the second truck of the convoy was on fire.

"But I didn't think he meant on *FIRE*. There were flames coming out of the turret, the doors ... the guys jumping out were on fire," Nunez said.

Taylor, who was in the last truck, and Nunez were among the first to react in attempts to save the wounded.

"We reacted the way we were supposed to react. We did everything we could," Nunez said.



Col. Jeffrey Sinclair, 172nd Separate Infantry Brigade commander decorates Staff Sgt. Octavio Nunez with the Silver Star during a ceremony on Ledward Barracks April 22. Spc. Jarrod Taylor (right) also earned the award, the nation's third-highest valor award.

‘Heroic’ risk

Taylor ran to assist and found Pfc. Andrew Catterton, who was badly burned, in shock, and without his body armor. Taylor shielded Catterton from enemy fire with his own body, moving Catterton to the safety of another truck for treatment and evacuation.

Then Taylor went back.

Staff Sgt. Juan Campos was lying close to the burning vehicle, and Taylor "heroically risked his life a second time" running through enemy fire and risking injury from munitions

and explosives "cooking off" from the stricken vehicle, according to his award narrative.

Taylor was struck by shrapnel from an explosion inside the burning truck as he began to move Campos. The impact knocked him down. Taylor, rather than retreating to cover, regained his footing, placed himself between Campos and the enemy forces, and pulled Campos out of harm's way.

Taylor suffered burns to his hands in his attempts to evacuate Campos.

He refused treatment until after he saw his charge evacuated by helicopter for medical treatment. But Taylor says he's no hero.

"The real heroes are the ones on (the 1-26 IN) memorial," he said.

One of those names belongs to Campos, who succumbed to his wounds 18 days later in a hospital in San Antonio, Texas.

‘Gallant actions’

Nunez ran toward the flaming vehicle and encountered Sgt. Terry Fleming engulfed in flame. Nunez

tackled Fleming to the ground so that the flames could be extinguished.

"Despite intense fire from enemy sources," the narrative reads, Nunez was able to pull Fleming to the cover of a nearby vehicle.

Then he went back to aid in evacuating Pfc. Omar Avila, whose shattered legs and burns made moving him difficult.

Under attack from all sides, including the ammunition exploding inside the burning vehicle, Nunez not only pulled Avila to cover, but also lifted the much heavier man into the truck.

Then Nunez went back—a third time.

The flames were too intense, and Nunez had to be pulled away by his lieutenant.

"Staff Sgt. Nunez's gallant actions, courageous leadership, and willful risk of his own life saved the lives of two severely wounded Soldiers," his narrative reads.

"I don't think I did anything special. Campos would have done the same thing. Hartge would have done the same thing," Nunez said.

Spc. Nicholas Hartge was killed in the explosion that day.

Mystifying valor

"Folks are mystified about valor ... in the civilian world because they don't really understand it. They get excited about it, but they wonder what makes two men in contact, in chaos, run back in to contact and chaos and save a friend," said Col. Jeffrey Sinclair, 172nd Separate Infantry Brigade commander, under whose command Taylor and Nunez serve.

Sinclair and brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Steven McClafin pinned the Silver Star awards on Taylor and Nunez, officially honoring their "actions of heroism."

"We know what this award is," Sinclair explained, "because we know what valor looks like. We know what it looks like when someone puts the lives of their fellow Soldiers above their own."

Environmental awareness part of Soldier readiness

Story and photo by
KIMBERLYGEARHART
Bavarian News

Earth Day was April 22, and around that time of year many people turn their thoughts toward environmental concerns such as pollution prevention.

In the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt Department of Public Works Environmental Division, Earth Day is every day, and teaching Soldiers and civilians how to protect the environment is one aspect of their mission. To that end, they train Environmental Officers.

"Environmental Officers are the eyes of the commander," said Lothar Rueckert, chief of the Environmental Division.

Each battalion, and separate companies whose location or duties require it, appoints an environmental

officer, who must attend a 40-hour course known as the Hazardous Waste/Hazardous Material Spill Response Course—officially known as the Environmental Officer's Course, said Katrin Holstein, a contractor from AMEC, GmbH helping to organize and conduct training.

The week-long course covers hazardous material and waste handling safety procedures, aimed at preventing spills or injuries, as well as response procedures should an incident occur. Additionally, environmental officers keep the command and the environmental division informed of training needs and any potential problems before they arise.

"It's important for them to know what their duties are and what their role is," Rueckert said.

Ideally, the course is offered twice per year, in the spring and fall,

although coordination with battalions and mission conflicts can make scheduling classes a balancing act.

"But mission and environmental concerns go hand in hand," Rueckert said.

Many environmental hazards also present mission-capability hazards as well. Soldiers and civilians working with hazardous materials can be injured if proper environmental safety measures aren't in place.

"We also try to offer classes in German and in English so that civilian workers also have an opportunity to train," Holstein said.

With the increased number of civilians working side-by-side with Soldiers, particularly in motor pools where environmental hazards abound, civilian training is necessary in order to see that the environmental mission is accomplished, added Rueckert.



Contractor Dave Cooper conducts Day Four training for environmental officers on Conn Barracks. Concerns ranging from placement of Material Safety Data Sheet binders to specific environmental officer duties are covered during the week-long course.

Traditions stressed at NCOPD training

by**MARK HEETER**
USAG Schweinfurt CI Chief

"I will communicate consistently with my Soldiers and never leave them uninformed." NCO creed. Second paragraph. Eighth sentence.

"Quite frankly, you're cheating the (NCO) corps when you don't share your knowledge," said Command Sgt. Maj. Keith McMullen, U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, addressing about 50 noncommissioned officers in the Ledward theater April 10.

The NCOs, from units in Schweinfurt, Bamberg, and Ansbach, were invited to Schweinfurt for a noncommissioned officer professional development — a time-honored tradition, according to McMullen.

"If you never learn anything in the military, carry on traditions, traditions, traditions," he implored the audience, before introducing Sgt. Maj. Grant Jones, from the U.S. Army in Europe

office of the provost marshal, who immediately let the Soldiers know he leads from the front.

Holding up a piece of paper that included the details of his next assignment, which will take him to Iraq, Jones let the NCOs know that he was close to retiring with 31 years of service when he heard the "battle cry."

"I am not playing. I'm going. I am not a hypocrite about anything I do," he proclaimed.

Jones came from Heidelberg to talk to the NCOs about recent changes to the enlisted promotion system, transformation and rebasing, and general leadership skills—regardless of military occupational specialty.

"It's an opportunity for NCOs to get together and cross-level information throughout career management fields," said 1st Sgt. Hassan Wilson, who assisted in arranging the NCOPD.

"My intent is to teach them their responsibility to their Soldiers as it

pertains to the new (promotion) system ... and they can determine how their Soldiers are best-suited for promotion," Jones said.

"We got busy, the Army got busy, and some things began to get excused in terms of the one-on-one sergeant taking care of the Soldier, 'Let me tell you what you need to do to get promoted,'" Jones said. "My intent is to remind them that this responsibility doesn't change and it isn't lessened in importance because of an (operations tempo), because who's taking care of the Optempo? Your Soldiers."

The Army today needs NCOPDs and solid training more than ever, according to Jones.

"It's a very important process and a very important and central tool to the development of our sergeants. We should do it formally as much as we can," he said, noting, however, that training is training, and NCOs should be doing it.

Use Bldg. 147 shredder

by**MARK HEETER**
USAG Schweinfurt CI Chief

Goopy clumps of waterlogged paper shreds drip off the metal chute into the bucket, completing the journey of what began as a pile of outdated training manuals for some piece of military equipment.

This is the industrial-strength document shredder, authorized for the destruction of classified documents.

The machine is located in Bldg. 147 at the hazardous waste storage facility and recycling center on Conn Barracks and is available for Schweinfurt-based units and organizations, said Tim Snyder director of the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt Directorate of Public Works.

"We pay for it. It's our money that pays for the maintenance, the operation," Snyder said, emphasizing the ongoing effort to reduce the

machine's usage by units from outside Schweinfurt.

"We have many units from elsewhere. They call and say they have to use ours," said Lothar Rueckert, the chief of the DPW environmental division, which runs the shredder's operation.

"We pay for the trash removal," Rueckert said.

The shredder is approved for disposal of plans, manuals, regulations and all types of classified material, Rueckert said, adding that units should abandon the old practice of using burn barrels in the motor pool for this task.

Authorized users can take up to 50 kilograms of paper to the center Tuesdays without an appointment; all others must make an appointment, Rueckert said.

For more information, call DSN 354-6795 or CIV 09721-96-6795.

Self Defense 101 prepping community

Story and photo by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

As part of Sexual Assault Awareness month, Army Community Services offered Self Defense 101 to educate the community on how to respond to a predator’s attack.

The four-hour classes took place April 14 and 19 at the Finney Fitness Center multipurpose room on Conn Barracks.

“It’s good stuff for women— and men— to know. If it should happen, I would want to know what to do,” said Sherri Reveal, participant in the first class.

Some of the self defense moves taught in the class included how to get out of a standing or sitting choke hold, how to strike properly, and where the vital target areas are located.

“What you use standing, you can also use on the ground,” said Joe Bautista, instructor of the class.

Bautista started martial arts in 1991 and now holds a black belt in Taekwondo, Karate, and Aikido.

As part of the class, he proposed possible situations when an attack could occur and demonstrated to the participants how to react. Each participant got their chance to be the attacker as well as the victim so as to understand how the moves worked.

“I’m from big cities and I have always been aware of what’s going on, and here I’m losing that (awareness) because I feel so comfortable. It’s good to get alert,” said Dora Lewis, a participant.

Sherri Reveal performs a choke hold on Dora Lewis as instructor Joe Bautista teaches how to respond when attacked by a predator during an ACS class “Self Defense 101.”



FSGLI coverage a top AFAP issue, forwarded up

by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

In February, community members participated in a three-day Army Family Action Plan forum to discuss 109 issues submitted by the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt community.

Some of the 109 issues “had really quick answers,” said Jennifer Litchfield, Schweinfurt’s AFAP program manager. “A lot of things have already been resolved.”

But some issues needed higher-level input and were selected to be pushed forward for review at the AFAP conference in Heidelberg Monday through May 16.

The first issue chosen concerns the system incompatibility in the leave donation program for civilians. The other addressed Family Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance coverage parameters for births.

Currently, as the leave donation program stands, only non-appropriated funds employees can donate or receive leave from those who are within the same system. Likewise, appropriated funds employees can only give and receive leave donations from other APF employees.

“Right now, ACS employees cannot donate leave to CYS employees,” said Litchfield, as an example.

The second issue that will be forwarded concerned the extent of FSGLI coverage.

“If a full-term (38-week) baby is stillborn, as it stands now, there is no coverage,” wrote Debby Pedroza, who submitted the issue following a firsthand experience.

Pedroza also cited an opposite example.

“If a mother at 20 weeks delivers early due to pregnancy complications and the baby survives for only minutes before passing away, there is full coverage,” Pedroza said.

“I don’t know how they draw those lines, but it’s not right the way it is,” she said.

Having the financial burden thrown on top of the tragedy of a stillborn baby was a shock to her family, she said.

With the weight of these two issues, the problem-solving process continues to Heidelberg as a resolution is sought. From the issues brought to Heidelberg, more will be selected to move even higher to the Department of the Army AFAP conference in December, with results of change hopefully on the horizon.

For conclusions or responses given to the other issues submitted in Schweinfurt, go to the Community Info Vault on the USAG Schweinfurt Web page at <http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/>. The AFAP issue book will be posted on this Web site in May.

New patient liaisons make workload more managable

by KIMBERLY GEARHART
Bavarian News

Ursula Holstein and Sylvia Hellmann have their work cut out for them these days.

Schweinfurt’s only patient liaisons make daily visits to American patients in both St. Josef’s and Leopoldina hospitals and in the outlying clinics during the week.

“We help mostly with language and cultural issues,” Holstein said, noting that neither she nor Hellmann is a nurse and cannot dispense medical advice.

“They can’t tell you whether to give your child Tylenol, but they can help direct you to appropriate host-nation care,” said Kevin Worth, nurse case manager for host nation care at the Schweinfurt Health Clinic.

If you are in need of that sort of health advice, the liaisons urge you to call the 24-hour Personal Health Advisor line at CIV 0800-825-1600, where a registered nurse is available to answer questions.

When American patients are admitted to host nation facilities, liaisons are notified by facility staff. On weekends, that notification occurs Monday morning, unless a patient is in an Intensive Care Unit, Hellmann explained.

“Then we get a call right away,” she added.

If you find that you need a patient liaison after duty hours or on the weekend, contact the community operations center at DSN 354-6708 or CIV 09721-96-6708. The on-call liaison will then be alerted.

“We take turns being on call, but with only two of us, we don’t get much time off,” Holstein said.

That will change soon, according to Worth. By the first of June, five liaisons will be on board at the clinic— a move which should also result in earlier visits with hospitalized patients.

“The new liaisons have been hired. Two will be here in May, and one by the first of June. Nobody else in Europe has that many patient liaisons,” said Lt. Col. Daniel Duecker, Schweinfurt Health Clinic commander.

In another change that will aid liaisons in focusing on patient care, translations are now being handled through medical records. Medical documents requiring translation are sent to the U.S. and may take two weeks to return, although Hellmann noted that emergency translation services can be arranged.

The increases in liaison staffing will help insure American patients seeking care in host nation facilities have the help they need to make their experience as comfortable and smooth as possible.

Take back the night



Photo by Sandra Wilson

Nearly 60 community members gathered for the Army Community Service-sponsored “Take Back the Night” walk April 23. The event began with a proclamation against sexual assault and was followed by a brief history of “Take Back the Night.” Participants were given turquoise ribbon pins, informational brochures, and whistles as tokens of their commitment to oppose sexual violence in our communities. Those who attended then marched through the Askren Manor housing area in a show of support for the community and victims of sexual violence everywhere.

German, American schools partner, build friendships

Story and photo by SANDRA WILSON
Bavarian News

Department of Defense Dependent Schools and local German schools have clearly forged a friendship over the past 25 years.

Each year, German fifth-graders visit American elementary schools, and the invitation is reciprocal. April 21 was one of those special partnership visits.

Two fifth-grade German classes from Bad Koenigshofen Gymnasium came to see what school life was like for fifth-grade American kids at Schweinfurt Elementary School.

“Interaction between American students and German students is good because it helps fight prejudice,” said Norbert Schmitt, the founder of the partnership which started with Wildflicker American Elementary School, continued to the DoDDS in Bad Kissingen, and is now hosted by SES.

Schmitt first began the partnership between the German and Americans because he “noticed that the American community was very separated from the German community.”

His aim was to “forge some friendships” between the two. Since its beginning, the partnership activities have extended from students to teachers and parents as well.

The two German classes arrived at SES in the morning, took a tour of the school, visited various classrooms like art and music, ate lunch, and participated in physical education with Maya Agamaniuk’s fifth-grade class.

“My favorite part is that we get to interact with the Germans. They don’t even know some of the games we play. It’s cool to teach them what we do,” said fifth-grader Breana Brooks.

As some kids played jump-rope together, others participated in a game of American football.

“They never play American football. This is totally new to them,” Schmitt said about the German students.

But when they all ran for the ball, there was no obvious distinction between the two nationalities— it was just a group of kids playing a game.

“(The partnership) is a wonderful thing. They get to know what they only learn from books in our school,” said Claudia Hager, a volunteer chaperone and German teacher.



A group of German fifth-graders gather around the students of an SES music class to hear and see how music is taught in an American classroom. The German students, from Bad Koenigshofen Gymnasium, visited SES April 21.

Get the facts on pesty poison ivy

by Col. JAN LEMAIRE
Family nurse practitioner

I think I might have poison ivy. What do I do about it? Can I spread it to others in my family? Poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac contain oil that is an irritant to the skin. The result of contact with these plants, or the smoke from the burning of these plants, is a red, itchy rash that often occurs in lines or streaks and is marked by fluid-filled bumps or large raised areas called hives.

The name of the oil in question is urushiol — an allergen — so the rash you get is an allergic reaction to contact with the oil.

Any time you come in contact with the oil, whether it is on the plant, in smoke, on clothing, pet fur, sporting gear, or other objects, you may react.

It takes anywhere from eight to 48 hours to develop the rash after contact and that rash may develop over several days.

It will only develop on the parts of your skin that had contact with the oil. It is not contagious, and you cannot catch it from another person or spread it, even if you touch the fluid from one of the blisters.

The more oil you come in contact with, the more severe your reaction will be. Serious symptoms of this reaction to touching the oil include:



Poison ivy is identified by its three-leaf cluster.

- Swelling of the face, mouth, genitals, or eyelids.

- Widespread, large blisters that ooze large amounts of fluid.

- Difficulty breathing if you inhaled the smoke from burning plants containing the oil.

Most poison ivy rashes can be treated easily at home and do not require a visit to the doctor.

First, wash the area with water immediately after contact with the plants.

To relieve itching, use wet compresses or take cool baths. Non-prescription antihistamine (such as Benadryl) and Calamine lotion can help relieve the itching. Moderate to severe cases may need to be treated by a health care professional who may prescribe corticosteroid pills, creams or ointments.

For patients who try over-the-counter corticosteroid creams, remember to use the cream for several days beyond the disappearance of the rash to fully suppress the reaction which can continue to erupt up to 14 days after exposure.

Prevent poison ivy by learning to identify the plant and avoid it. “Leaves of three, let them be; leaves of five, let them thrive” is an old adage that can help those who aren’t sure.

If you must be around poison ivy, wear long sleeves, pants, and gloves if necessary. When you finish outside, strip the clothing and place



Courtesy photos

Poison ivy grows on fields, in unkept gardens, and on the road side. It looks harmless but when a person touches or brushes up against it, the seemingly harmless plant releases an oil called urushiol. The oil causes an allergic reaction in the form of a red, itchy rash with fluid filled bumps or large raised areas known as hives.

directly into the washing machine and shower immediately using soap. Even if you have had contact, this should minimize the severity of an outbreak.

Prevention is the best approach, but these simple guidelines should help you decide whether your health care provider needs to be involved in the care of your poison ivy.

Common cold? Runny nose? Cough? Antibiotics not always the answer

by CARLLA E. JONES
Health systems specialist

Antibiotics are not the answer for every illness. Many people want to start using an antibiotic right away when they catch a cold.

However, antibiotics do not help fight viruses that cause colds, flu, bronchitis, and most sore throats. In fact, taking antibiotics when they are not needed may do more harm than good.

Most infections are caused by two types of germs: bacteria and viruses. Bacteria are organisms that are found almost everywhere in the human body, except normally sterile places like the blood stream and in spinal fluid.

Viruses, on the other hand, are organisms that cause disease by invading healthy host cells in the body.

When the virus particles multiply, the host cells burst. This allows the viruses to infect other cells.

So, what’s the problem with using antibiotics to treat the most common



colds or flu? The problem is that antibiotics kill bacteria, but not viruses. So, antibiotics will not work against upper respiratory viral illnesses such as colds, flu, runny noses, or most coughs. Taking antibiotics for these kinds of viral infections will not:

- Cure the infection.
- Keep other people from catching the infection.
- Help someone feel better.

In fact, taking antibiotics for viral infections will increase the risk of antibiotic resistance later.

Every time someone takes

Repeated and improper use of antibiotics is the primary cause of an increase in drug-resistant bacteria.

Courtesy photo

antibiotics, sensitive bacteria are killed, but resistant bacteria may be left to grow and multiply.

Repeated and improper uses of antibiotics are the primary causes of an increase in drug-resistant bacteria.

Nearly all of the significant bacterial infections in the world are becoming resistant to the most commonly prescribed antibiotic treatments.

The problem with this resistance is that when antibiotics don’t work, the consequences can include longer-lasting illnesses, more doctor visits, extended hospital stays, and the need for more expensive medications. Some resistant infections can even cause death. To prevent antibiotic resistance:

- Do not take an antibiotic for a viral infection like a cold or the flu.

- Take necessary antibiotics exactly as the doctor directs. Don’t skip any doses.

- Don’t take someone else’s prescription.

- Talk to your health care provider about antibiotic resistance. Ask

whether an antibiotic will be effective in treating your illness.

- Do not demand antibiotics for your children if their health care provider has determined they are not needed.

Be smart when using antibiotics. Remember that colds and flu are caused by viral infections that cannot be treated by antibiotics.

Children and adults with viral infections will recover when the illness has run its course.

The spread of viral infections can be reduced through frequent hand-washing and by avoiding close contact with others.

Since viral infections can sometimes lead to bacterial infections, health care providers need to know if an illness gets worse or lasts a long time.

To get smart about knowing when antibiotics work, visit the CDC Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/community/known-and-do.htm>.

Taking breaks increases energy level

by KELLY FORYS
Psychologist, CHPPPM

Have you ever come home after a day of work feeling completely exhausted? Have you ever thought that taking a break at work helped you to be more productive? The good news is that it does!

Taking breaks actually does make you more productive and can provide you with more energy at the end of the day.

Taking breaks away from your computer and job tasks can enhance concentration, boost energy, reduce stress, and improve mood.

Many of us have been programmed by our family members, friends, and the Western work ethic to believe that “working hard” means “working long hours with no breaks.”

Soldiers and civilians alike often feel guilty for taking breaks and fear

that they will be perceived as wasting time.

Not taking breaks has other negative effects. People may turn to caffeine, junk food, sugar, nicotine, or drugs to keep going when their bodies are telling them to stop.

The key to maintaining optimal productivity is to take breaks to prevent negative effects; however, if you have difficulty concentrating, feel your eyes straining, develop a headache, or become fidgety, your body and mind are telling you that a break is overdue.

We wear our hard work like a badge of courage on our sleeves. We brag when we work through lunch, stay late at work, forfeit our vacations, and take our laptops and cell phones with us on the rare occasion that we do take a vacation.

We need to get back in touch with our natural patterns of activity and

rest. As babies and small children, our bodies were programmed to take breaks, usually in the form of naps, after long hours of playing. Workplace schedules of the past had built-in mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks.

As our society has increased the use of advanced technology (e-mail, TiVo, BlackBerries, Bluetooth, and cellular phones), we have also increased our ability to be in touch at all times.

The ability to take work everywhere and never miss a phone call has reduced the amount of time that we spend away from work tasks and has decreased the amount of time that we spend relaxing and having fun.

Workday breaks can be as simple as walking to the other end of the office building; standing up from your chair and stretching your arms, neck, and shoulders; or chatting with a co-worker in the fresh air.

Work breaks can be effective with as little as three minutes away from the job every 90 minutes to two hours. So pat yourself on the back for the work you do, and take a break!

The top five reasons you should take a break:

1. You give your body a rest from the unnatural postures that develop while sitting at the computer.

2. You develop relationships with your coworkers that can benefit you both personally and professionally.

3. You will be more focused on your work when you return from a break.

4. You will foster creativity.

5. You will feel better at the end of the day and have energy to do the activities that you enjoy.

Summer’s on the way!
Advertise your summer job skills (babysitting, lawn care, dog walking...) with a free classified ad today in the Bavarian News. Visit www.milcom.de.

Local training invaluable to Guard troops

Continued From Page 1

the number of family assistance centers to 400 throughout the country, “not just to help Guard families but all families of deployed service members, so we’ve done really well regarding to that.”

He said Congress has also passed legislation to help Guard families, “but the employers are the piece to me that we need to work on most because we have not done a lot to pay back employees, if you want to call it that, who support us so well.”

The 50-year-old Gipe, who was activated after 9/11, has been on a military leave of absence from his civilian job for nearly seven years. He said his job fully supports him, “but I’ve just been very fortunate.”

Gipe said it’s a little easier for larger companies that are able to deal with the loss of their Soldier-employees, but smaller business with 50 or fewer employees and Guard members who

own their own businesses need additional help.

“We’ve got to do some things to help them because a lot of time they lose their businesses,” he said. “Doctors, lawyers, for example. We have to work certain programs for them because once you lose patients, they’re hard to get back.

I think that’s the next thing we’ve got to work on.”

Despite the changing face of the Guard into a mobile fighting force, Gipes said they remain prepared for their civil mission.

“We have agreements between the states,” he explained. “If it’s a relatively small state, and they send 50 percent of their (Guard members) to a deployment, and something catastrophic happens and the Guard in that state is not large enough to overcome that, the surrounding states would send in troops, similar to what happened during (Hurricane) Katrina,

when we sent 50,000 Soldiers and airmen down there just from the Guard within about a five to six-day period, but that’s something we’ve been doing for a long time.”

Gipe’s April 22 visit to Grafenwoehr wrapped up a week-long tour of military installations throughout Europe at which he observed Guard members conducting training and jobs.

Those jobs, he said, are saving the Army millions of dollars a year, and the state-of-the-art training provides realistic scenarios that will ready troops for what they’ll face in forward deployed locations around the globe.

He noted the National Guard engineers from several states who are doing construction projects for the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels.

“Well, this is good stuff because it allows our Soldiers to train in their (military occupational speciality) and get good relevant training,” he said.

While constructing the mock Iraqi and Afghan villages that will be used to train U.S. Soldiers before they deploy, the engineers are placed in combat scenarios and “may be attacked while doing their mission,” said Gipe. This is a real possibility if they deploy and makes the construction job and training here invaluable for Soldiers.

“But it also saves the Army millions of dollars every year by our engineers coming over here and doing construction projects (that would normally go to contractors) for the Army, so it’s a win-win,” said Gipe.

Currently, 3,500 reserve component Soldiers augment active duty units on Grafenwoehr, Vilseck, and Hohenfels in a fiscal year. Those Soldiers augment as follows during overseas deployment training, or ODT status:

- Engineer troop construction
- MP support to Grafenwoehr Garrison

■ Infantry support to 1-4 Inf. in Hohenfels

■ Maintenance support to 5th Maintenance Battalion on Grafenwoehr and MDH in Hohenfels

■ Public affairs support to 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command Office Public Affairs Office

■ Medical support to Grafenwoehr medical clinic

■ Legal support to the Grafenwoehr JAG office. Legal support covers the entire JMTC footprint from Garmisch to Hohenfels.

■ Sniper Mobile Training Team for CATC Grafenwoehr

■ PSYOPS support to Hohenfels-OC Team Mustang

■ Grafenwoehr Postal CMR

Gipes said at a National Guard conference in June he will urge more states to take advantage of the first-rate training and aid the multi-million dollar savings by sending their troops overseas.

Clinics maintaining pharmacy benefits for all

Continued From Page 1

space-available appointments and primary care managers at military health care facilities.

“Every retiree in Germany is TRICARE Standard, which means they get into a military treatment facility based on space available,” said Crosland.

“They created a program in Germany called TRICARE Plus to try and make a Prime-like benefit for the TRICARE Standard patients, the retirees, but in fact they are still Standard. We gave them providers in our clinic, and to me that established a relationship that I’m not going to break,” she said.

To maintain the existing doctor-patient relationships, the clinic will continue to provide appointments and care to Plus members already enrolled to a provider.

“We’re going to continue, after 1 May, to care for TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Plus,” Crosland said. “If they’re in the Plus program and they have a provider in our clinic, they will continue to be seen as if they were Prime. We will not add any more TRICARE Plus (patients) to our clinic. When their provider leaves, we will transition TRICARE Plus patients to a local

physician on the German economy.”

TRICARE Plus patients include roughly 280 individuals. Crosland said these individuals will not be affected by the new booking tools.

“It is the ones that aren’t in our system yet, that will need to get care elsewhere,” said Carrie Orrahood, Grafenwoehr’s TRICARE Service Center lead medical service coordinator.

“The Plus program is site specific,” she explained. “Wherever you’re enrolled, that is the only place you can be seen as a Plus patient. So, if somebody moves here, from say Wuerzburg, that is a retiree and wants to switch from the Wuerzburg to the Graf clinic, we can’t do that right now. That is (the same) with people who are just retiring and they want to come be in the Plus program. We aren’t going to be seeing any new TRICARE Plus patients, only the ones that have already committed to this clinic.”

“This pertains mostly to retirees and pay patients—our DoDDS, our contractors, and so forth,” stated Crosland, “about 10 percent of my visits every month.”

For that 10 percent, the clinics offer help in finding a German physician on the local economy.

“We will help the population that is not (signed up) with us already,” Orrahood said. “We will help them find providers on the economy.”

Crosland confirmed that there are a sufficient number of providers to accommodate them.

“We have relationships with providers that we haven’t used in a while because we were seeing everybody in the clinic. We will reactivate those agreements. If we find that’s not sufficient, then I will go out . . . and we will find new primary care.”

Once TRICARE Standard members find a doctor, they will be able to make their own appointments without referrals from the military health clinics. To find a doctor, Standard members can contact the Grafenwoehr Tricare benefits advisor at DSN 475-4724 or CIV 09641 83 7424.

The key, Crosland said, is to find a doctor and establish a relationship before you become ill.

“I strongly encourage everyone to go out and proactively find a provider,” she said. “My concern is people wait until they get really sick, and then they come and we’ll have to send them to see a German provider. I still won’t have the ability to see them; that is why we’re doing

this.”

TRICARE Standard members, however, will not see any change in their pharmacy benefits.

“There’s a requirement for their prescriptions to be written to the American standard,” she said. “We will get that information to the primary care doctors that we have, just to remind them.”

As clinic staff prepares for a peak of 8,000 enrolled patients in June and July, Soldiers and family members, as well as TRICARE Plus patients, are reminded that they can take steps to ensure fast and efficient service by showing up for appointments, booking appointments online, and accessing the nurse advice line.

Crosland views no-shows as a loss for the entire U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr community.

“Our no-show rate is above what the national standard should be,” she said. “So every time a patient makes an appointment and fails to show up, you hurt the entire community. That is lost time, that is lost opportunity.”

Patients also have the opportunity to book routine appointments online at www.tricareonline.com and seek advice from a qualified nurse in a matter of seconds with the nurse advice line, CIV 0800-4759-2330.

Neighbors concerned with lack of appropriate dog care

Continued From Page 1

Americans treat their pets.

“People keep their dogs outside all day with no water and no shelter,” Swieda said. “(Some people) are seen hitting or kicking their dogs. That is not the right way to train your dog.”

Another German native living in Netzaberg, Dana Marshall, understands the perception held by others.

“The trouble we have,” she said, “is a lot of people have dogs and they don’t take care of them.”

Marshall said she tried to help a friend adopt a dog from the German animal shelter, but the shelter refused when they found out the friend was American.

“The next day she called me back and said I have a problem that that lady is an American. I can not deal with (the fact) that she might not take the dog back with her,” Marshall explained.

Hopeful dog owner Anna Vanzant was

surprised by the shelter’s reaction.

“I brought two cats with me to Germany so I was really shocked. Then, it made me sad for the dog. I know we have a great home for the dog. It was in foster care and it needed a permanent home,” Vanzant said.

“The trouble we have is a lot of people have dogs and they don’t take care of them.”

Dana Marshall
Netzaberg resident

While Vanzant and Marshall admit that there are people everywhere in the world who don’t care for their dogs properly, some of the negative perceptions bear out in their very own neighborhood.

“You can look around here, and there is dog poop everywhere and nobody picks it up,” Marshall said.

Cleaning after your pet and ensuring your pooch is properly secured is one way to reduce neighborhood issues, said Marshall.

The dog training camp arranged by Swieda is another.

Military regulations state ownership of more than two regular domestic animals, such as cats and dogs, in a family housing unit is prohibited and that pets, while outside, must be leashed at all times.

The regulation further states that animal feces must be collected and discarded by owners, and pets must be kept indoors at night. Soldiers and family members should also note that any damage caused to the yard or home will be the responsibility of the owner and that breeding and the raising of pets for profit on government property is prohibited.

German pet laws are specific for each city, but pet owners should be aware that electronic or hurtful training devices are illegal, and that dogs must be secured while traveling in a car. For more, area specific information, residents are directed to their local city hall.

To sign up for the dog training camp, call CIV 0171-848-7685.

(At right) Diane Swieda, concerned about a lack of proper dog care, helped organize dog obedience classes.



CSM gets much needed boost after watching warriors at work

Continued From Page 1

were highly professional and experts at what they were doing.

I’ve been in the Army for “a couple of weeks,” and I’ve never met young enlisted Soldiers who displayed expertise to that extent before. It was like each and every one of them had been doing this for a lifetime.

I was cured . . . the blue funk was gone.

I eased on down the flight line, walking past the aircraft tucked into their parking spots.

Here and there, grouped in the dark, in twos and threes, were my warrior pilots and crew chiefs either closing out flights or preparing for the next mission. I saw quiet professionals who save lives every day and with every mission.

Now I’m proud, walking like a rooster in a

hen house.

Out the flight line gate I go, walking through the pod area, (that’s our sleeping area that’s highly decorated in a “sandbags and a concrete barrier” motif). Dark and quiet, Soldiers trying to get some well deserved rest.

There was movement here and there as some Soldiers prepared for a PT test while others finished up third shift.

Once I got back into my office, the depression had turned to satisfaction.

I couldn’t help thinking how brave these men and women are . . . how hard they work to make the mission happen. I realized how much they have learned and grown here.

Above all else, I couldn’t help but wonder how much our country owes to these unsung heroes. The one thing I know is how proud I am to have the privilege to serve with them.

No-hit pitching leads Falcons to 24-0 grand slam against Ansbach

Story and photo by MARY MARKOS
Bavarian News

Nolan Ryan, Cy Young, Kyle Krajcovic. The third name may not be as recognizable, but Krajcovic has accomplished what many baseball greats never do: he pitched a no-hitter. A feat he has performed not once, but twice, leading the Vilseck High School Falcons baseball team in a record breaking 4-0 season.

"Vilseck has never before won that many games in a season at this age group," said Head Coach Ken Stark. "Last year we won three."

The Child and Youth Services BIGS team defeated Ansbach April 19, 24-0, during a near perfect game for Krajcovic, who walked the next-to-last batter.

Junior Will Pomares, who was selected for the first string All-European team last season, pitched the team to a 27-1 second game victory.

More hits, please

Krajcovic joined the team this year after moving from Fort Knox. While excited to have pitched a no-hitter, he would have liked to have had a few more hits from the Ansbach team, he said.

"I actually wanted them to get more hits so the team could field the ball. I didn't want it to be just me and the catcher."

Krajcovic and catcher senior Nolan Stark continued their play April 26 against Hohenfels when Krajcovic pitched his second no-hitter, leading the Falcons to a 10-0 win. Pitchers Will Pomares, who left the game in the first inning due to an injury, and freshman Roberto Miranda continued the winning streak with a 9-4 win for the second game.

Pitching, however, is not the only secret to Vilseck's success.

Krajcovic hit a grand slam home run against Ansbach and freshman Kalyn Smithson hit a solo home run during the second game against Hohenfels.

Strong at bat

Nolan Stark and Miranda, as well as Pomares and outfielder Luis Solis have also been strong



Sophomore Kyle Krajcovic pitches his second no-hitter this season against Hohenfels April 26.

at bat. Pomares, one of two co-captains elected by the team, said it has been the team's strength, both at bat and on the field, that has kept them undefeated.

Experience counts!

"I see that we have a good defense and offense, so we're equally as strong... This year the team is made of strong people, we have more experience," Pomares said.

Experience comes not only from the six returning players who received a varsity letter in baseball last year, but from the younger players who have played the sport in their youth.

"We have a lot of freshman," said Stark, who is coaching again for the second year. "In all respects, it is a younger team then it was last year, but I think it is going to be a better team

this year because their overall skill level is a little farther along. This year, just from a pure talent standpoint we're going to have better pitching and Ron (Biederman) will be able to help them to fine tune their skills. If you've got some pitchers that can hold the other team down a little bit with the runs, and if your hitting gets a chance, we ought to be able to stay in the game and be competitive."

Biederman, a former semi-pro ball player, joined the team this year as pitching coach.

"This year they've got four kids who can really throw the ball," said Biederman.

Taking it from a pro

His experience as pitcher for the St. Louis AAA ball team has translated into lessons for the young Falcons.

"What I try to teach all the pitchers, not just

Kyle, is that to be a success you've got to try to keep the ball away from the bat. If (the pitch) is low, 98 percent of the time if they do hit it, it is going to stay in the infield. They just keep all their pitches low."

Stark, Biederman, and assistant coach William Pomares also try to teach the kids basic sport fundamentals.

Since day one...

"Since day one of practice this season, I have emphasized three things that the team needs to do to be successful, and success can be measured in many ways, not just number of wins," said Stark. "Those are teamwork, sportsmanship, and hustle. If each team member can do those things on the field, in practices and games, the entire team will benefit."

Good sportsmanship was apparent during the season opener against Ansbach when the Falcons stopped stealing bases in an effort not to run-up the score.

Senior Nolan Stark, who was elected co-captain by the team and selected for the second string All-European team last year, explained.

"It is kind of a unwritten rule of sportsmanship, once the score kind of gets out of hand, you don't want to rub it in the other team's face," he said. "That doesn't make the game any fun, and that's what everybody's here for is fun."

Away games

The team hopes to have fun as they continue their winning streak this season. They travel to Mannheim Saturday and will battle Ansbach May 17.

Regardless of the number of wins, Stark said the boys should be proud of their performance so far this season.

"As a team, they're all working together pretty well," he said. "The older players, just like you'd expect, are working with the younger player, bringing them along. I feel comfortable that we have a solid team and I think they'll be able to compete with most of the teams in our league."

Black Hawks, Phantoms play to 28-28 tie

Armed Forces Day game set May 17, entry free for U.S. service members, families

Special to the Bavarian News

More than 500 fans witnessed the German Football League 2 Game of the Week featuring the high powered passing game of the Plattling Black Hawks and the bruising running game of the Wiesbaden Phantoms.

The game was held April 26 at the Europaviertel in Wiesbaden, Germany.

Fresh off of their 29-7 victory over the Saarland Hurricanes, the Plattling Black Hawks were looking to begin the season 2-0 and put two of its longest road trips behind them.

Perennial GFL2 power Wiesbaden stood in their way. Early on, it looked like Plattling would not live up to its preseason co-favorite status. Plattling won the opening toss and decided to play offense.

The first five opening plays led to a penalty and three sacks from the powerful Wiesbaden DL.

"Jan Müller is probably one of the best defensive ends in the 2nd League, and he dominated early recording two of the three sacks the first drive," said Jason Olive, Head Coach of the Plattling Black Hawks.

The running game of Joel Buskirk,

Davis Matz, and Kelly Perrier moved the ball across midfield before Phantom quarterback Guido Reuels delivered a perfect strike against blown coverage and the Phantoms were ahead 7-0 in the first three minutes of the game.

On the ensuing kick-off, returner Toure Butler electrified the crowd with a 90-yard kickoff return for a touchdown and the Black Hawks tied the game 7-7.

Both defenses stiffened until the last two minutes of the first quarter when the Black Hawks marched down field for a touchdown drive capped off with an 18-yard scamper by Black Hawk quarterback Adam Hazel.

A poor snap led to a missed PAT and the Black Hawks led momentarily 13-7.

Both teams traded punts throughout the second quarter until two minutes prior to the half, Phantoms running back #30, Kelley Perrier, scored from 5 yards out. The extra point made the score 14-13 heading into halftime.

With 1:41 on the clock, the Black Hawks took possession of the ball and

marched nearly 80 yards for the go-ahead score. wide receiver Alex Schwarz caught a 20-yard touchdown with just seconds remaining on the clock.

Quarterback Adam Hazel dove into the end zone on the two point conversion to make the score 21-14 heading into halftime.

"We were hoping that the late first half score would take the wind from their sails" said Olive. "I told our kids that the first drive of the second half would set the tone for the rest of the game."

Unfortunately, the Phantom offense answered the bell. After a block in the back penalty backed the Phantoms up to their own 15 yard line, their offense put together a 10-play 85 yard drive resulting in a game tying touchdown.

The Black Hawk offense responded with another well orchestrated drive of their own, but a deflected ball resulted in the game's lone turnover at the Phantom 3.

Both defenses stiffened, and the teams traded punts the rest of the third quarter.

The fourth quarter began with a defensive struggle. Two minutes into the fourth, Plattling was forced to punt to Wiesbaden from their own 40 yard line. A low punt was fielded by returner Joel Buskirk at the Wiesbaden 30.

After reversing his field, and shedding several tacklers, Buskirk was off to the races, a 70-yard punt return put the Phantoms up 28-21.

The Black Hawks responded to the touchdown with a touchdown drive of their own. Quarterback Adam Hazel moved the offense methodically over across the field capping a 65-yard drive with a 4-yard touchdown strike to Alex Schwarz.

Sammy Farghali knotted the score at 28 with 7:10 remaining to play.



Photos by Dirk Poxdoerfer

Black Hawk running back Jan Pav (#39) is facemasked by Rene Nachtsheim (#69) April 26.

From that point, the defenses took over, and neither team was able to pose a serious scoring threat.

"I am very proud of my team, the fact that we got down several times and never gave up," said Olive.

"It is a little disappointing to not come out of here with a victory, but Wiesbaden has shown that they are also one of the teams to beat in '08," he said. "We've never left Wiesbaden with any points in hand, today, we at least salvaged one point in the tie." In the GFL, two points are awarded for a victory, one point is awarded for a tie, and zero points are awarded for a loss.

Plattling takes another week off to prepare for the Stuttgart Silver Arrows who began their season Saturday with a big 42-0 victory over the Königsbrunn Ants. Wiesbaden makes a road trip to play GFL2 newcomers, the Montabaur Fighting Farmers, who also won their first contest 9-0 on the

road in Saarland.

In other news, pre-season favorite Franken opened with a home victory over visiting Kirchdorf 28-14 on Sunday.

Plattling plays one more road game in Stuttgart Saturday before playing Franken in its home season opener May 17 at the Karl-Weinburger Stadion in Plattling.

The May 17 game is Armed Forces Day with the Black Hawks and all U.S. service members and their families are admitted to the game for free.

The Black Hawks will begin the day with parachutists jumping in with the opening day game ball. A jumping castle will be there for the children, and some of the best American football in Germany will be played with pre-season front runners Plattling playing co-favorite Franken.

For more information, visit www.black-hawks-football.de, or e-mail Olive at weagle_34@yahoo.com.

Black Hawks quarterback Adam Hazel (#19) completes a pass to wide receiver Alexander Schwarz (#1) April 26.



Track & Field



Junior Aisha Mitchell (left) competes in the long jump April 26 at Vilseck High School.

Sophomore Dominique Lasley, (right) seen completing the 100m dash April 26, qualified for the European championship in the long jump with a jump of 19.9 feet.

Photos by Mary Markos



Graf hosting Army’s annual Ten Miler

U.S. Army Europe news release

The U.S. Forces Europe Army Ten-Miler qualifier race will be held May 31 at U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr.

The eight top finishing male and female active-duty Soldiers will be named to the Army in Europe team that will compete Oct. 5 at the Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C.

Overall, the Grafenwoehr race is open to all active-duty servicemembers, Department of Defense civilians, and family members who are 18 and older. But every runner must present a DoD identification card to enter the run.

Besides individual men and women age divisions, there will also be a separate team category that allows each garrison to enter a maximum of four squads made up of four to six runners. For team competition, each installation must submit rosters – completed with all pertinent information and signed by the sport director.

Awards will be presented to the top three finishers in each military and civilian age category. Additionally, the top three teams receive awards, including individual team members.

Free troop billets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, contact the USAG Grafenwoehr Recreation Division at DSN 475-9024.

For paid lodging, contact the Grafenwoehr billeting office at DSN 475-1700 or Rose Barracks at DSN 476-1700.

It is “strongly recommended” military participants be placed in an official travel status (TDY; permissive TDY; or on pass) for duration of travel and competition, said Jim Mattingly, Installation Management Command-Europe sports and fitness director.

For more information on the race, contact Tony Lee, chief of USAG Grafenwoehr Recreation Programming, at DSN 475-7576.

Online registration is available via the USAG Grafenwoehr Web site at www.grafenwoehr.army.mil.



Photo by Paula Guzman

Not quite

Sheila Rivera, Vilseck High School freshman and daughter of Carla and 1st Sergeant Jose Rivera, acting deputy commandant, Noncommissioned Officer Academy, tags a Ramstien High School runner trying to steal home plate April 27 at the Vilseck High School softball field.

Mountain bike race series cruises through Graf

IMCOM-E news release

The U.S. Forces Europe Mountain Bike Championship Race Series kicks off Saturday at Aviano Air Base, Italy, and will progress to U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr May 17.

The annual race series will make stops at a total of 11 installations at Europe, with its Sept. 28 finale being hosted by USAG Garmisch.

All Department of Defense ID cardholders (military, civilian employees, family members 18 and older, retirees, and contractors) assigned to military units within Europe are eligible to compete in four different categories that will be

broken down by age groups.

Depending on individual race sites, team categories will be held for units and groups to support commander cup point competition.

Additionally, some races will possibly sponsor youth categories to promote recreational mountain bike activities.

Age divisions range from bambino (under 10) to senior (16-18).

The USFE series is a way “to promote physical fitness and exposure to the sport of mountain bike racing,” said Jim Mattingly, sports and fitness director for Installation Management Command-Europe.

For more information, contact your Outdoor Recreation office or visit <https://public.euromwr.army.mil>.

Additional race sites include:

- USAG Kaiserslautern—May 31
- USAG Stuttgart—June 14
- USAG Hohenfels—June 21
- Ramstein Air Base—July 20
- USAG Ansbach—July 26
- USAG Bamberg—Aug. 9
- USAG Wiesbaden (Dexheim)—Aug. 23
- NATO School, Oberammergau—Sept. 14



Photo by Bilyana Atova

Jonathan Dreher crosses the finish line to win the 2007 Army Ten-Miler qualifier race at Grafenwoehr. The garrison will be hosting the 2008 qualifier May 31.

Spectators welcomed at Kaiserslautern Special Olympics

by CHRISTINE JUNE
USAG Kaiserslautern Public Affairs

People throughout Europe are encouraged to root for 800 German and American athletes participating in this year’s U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern Special Olympics Spring Games.

The games will be held May 6 at the German Police Academy in nearby Enkenbach-Alsenborn, with more than 30 schools being represented.

“We have many athletes who will not have their friends and families there to cheer them on,” said Kimberly Hicks, Special Olympics coordinator. “This year we are putting out a call

for more people throughout the community to (support) the athletes.”

Special Olympics, an international program of athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, comes to KMC each year courtesy of the garrison and the German Police Academy.

“Everyone truly gives of themselves to ensure that all the athletes have a good time,” said Hicks.

More than 1,400 people throughout Germany have already volunteered for this year’s games.

“Without volunteers – and their energy, commitment, and enthusiasm – the Special Olympics would not be possible,” said Kari Sharpe, the

garrison’s Exceptional Family Member Program manager, adding that volunteers make the event possible in many ways.

Examples are: setting up and tearing down tents; serving food; registering athletes; and overseeing individual competition. Plus they can be a “buddy,” where they are paired with athletes, assisting them throughout the day.

Traditionally, the Special Olympics here has eight competitive games for ages 8 and older, and more than 10 non-competitive games for athletes ages 5 to 7.

Competitive games include tennis, track and field, badminton, bocce ball,

soccer, basketball, softball, and volleyball.

Non-competitive games include treasure hunt, bean-bag toss, obstacle course, and ring toss.

“Volunteers and athletes look forward to this special day every spring, when the entire community comes together for a day of great fun,” said Sharpe.

Shuttle buses will be picking up passengers at several installations in the Kaiserslautern military community. Spectators from surrounding communities are encouraged to use this system.

For a shuttle schedule, visit <http://www.kaiserslautern.army.mil>.